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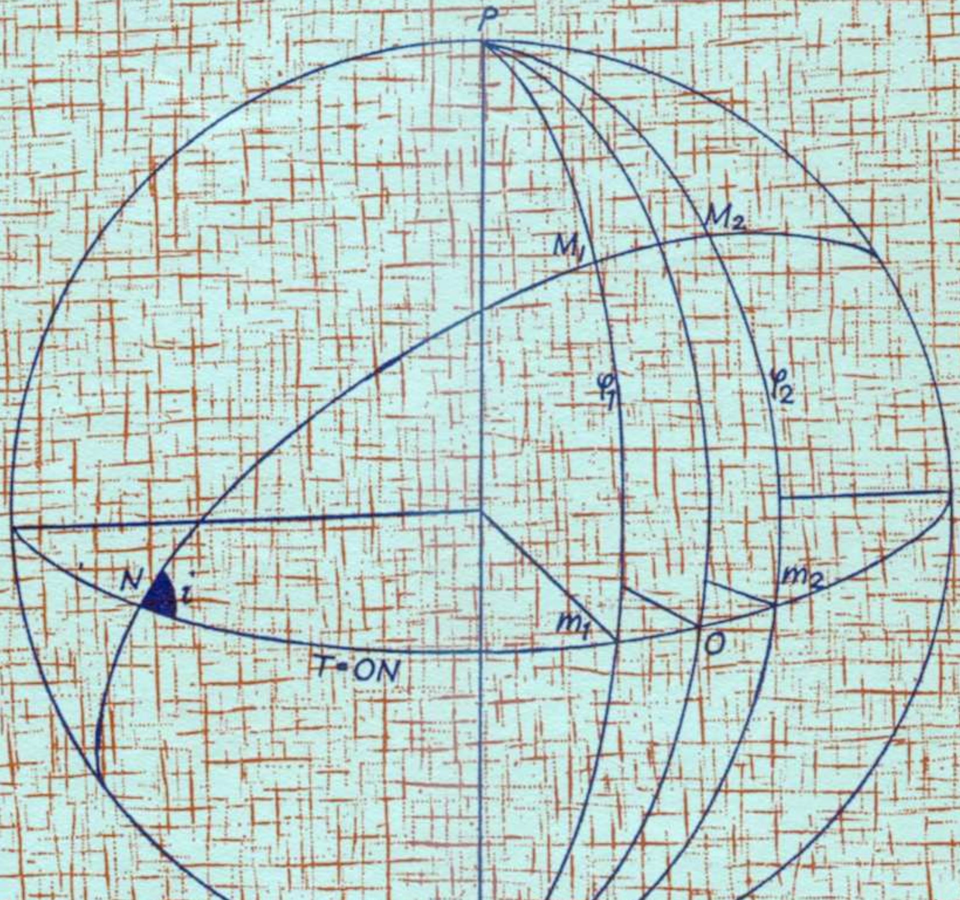

ORTHOTENY
A NEW DEVELOPMENT

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Edited by
Waveney Girvan

CONTENTS

	Page
Recent Developments on Orthotenic Research: Jacques Vallée	3
The Truth; some suggestions for the investigator: Peter F. Sharp, B.Sc.	7
More News of Siragusa: Gordon W. Creighton ...	10
Another Speech by Wilbert B. Smith	11
Mystery Satellites: John D. Llewellyn	15
Meteors or Saucers? D. Ward	16
Notes on Dufton Fell Crater: John Bainbridge	17
BAVIC plotted as a World Circle Line: P. K. Haythornthwaite	17
World Round-Up	19
Mail Bag	25
The Moon and the Planets: C. M. Pither	28
Was it a Balloon?	29
A Hoaxer Confesses ...	30
Book Review	32

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 9 No. 6 **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

Ridicule

ONE of the most difficult forms of opposition that the pioneer has to face is ridicule. It is hard to bear because the acid gathers its sting from the climate of public opinion. For many years when people laughed at flying saucers the world laughed with them. Even cowards gathered sufficient courage to fight and relied on the herd to protect them. Great constancy of purpose has been required to withstand the scorn of the majority, but we can all now take heart, for relief, at long last, is at hand. The debunkers are now in danger of being debunked: the public is becoming aware that it may not be the saucers that are ridiculous but the "explanations" which have in the past built up the myth of their non-existence.

The ridicule that has dogged us was undoubtedly caused by these "explanations." Some honest citizen, perhaps a highly trusted pilot or an astronomer, reports a strange object in the sky. Immediately officialdom in some form or another steps in and states that the object was a weather balloon, a meteorite or an hallucination. The witness is made to look silly and the whole subject, after it had suffered from this technique of belittlement, began to be classed as a myth. Quite recently papers like the *Evening Standard* and the *Daily Mail* complained that believers could never be discouraged by facts. It may subsequently have occurred to them, as a result of the Wiltshire crater exposure, that the facts on which they relied were not as solid as they had supposed and that it is they and not we who have succumbed to myth. With much greater justice we can return their insults by suggesting that they should investigate the explanations more thoroughly. Their gullibility in the past has been stupendous: it needed only a statement from some obscure clerk in this ministry or that to say "car headlight reflections" or "weather balloon" and the newspapers, the self-appointed guardians of our liberty, closed their files on the greatest mystery of the day. We do not include all newspapers in this castigation, but where the cap fits it can now be worn. The tide has turned and on another page will be found an account from the *Daily Express* where a weather balloon that never was has been deflated and an Air Ministry minion made to look both stupid and negligent.

During the war, communiqués could mislead the public for a considerable time. Disastrous routs became strategic retreats. Defeats became victories, vice virtue and, as many will be able to recall, a secret weapon became an exploding gas main. The newspapers in all countries at war became agents for propaganda

and played their part with a will. The Press now needs reminding that allegedly we are at peace and the public has a right to know, and the newspapers a duty to tell, the facts and nothing but the facts. The public is beginning to ask for the truth about the UFOs and not just what the Air Ministry wants it to know. We are not suggesting necessarily that there is anything sinister behind our mystery (though several investigators, of whom Dr. Olavo Fontes, of Brazil, is the most prominent, thinks there may be), but it has occurred to many people that if strange objects can penetrate our defence system, which is supposed to include a radar umbrella, and look real enough to several trained witnesses and to justify a jet fighter being sent up in pursuit, it would be better if we had an Air Ministry that took the matter seriously. Our defences cost us dearly enough and the taxpayer cannot afford fools in authority. It is not necessary to ask these officials to believe in flying saucers. As a first step in education, might we suggest that they consider first the possibility of a secret weapon? There is plenty of evidence that the objects, whatever they are, are solid and intelligently piloted. Is it of no concern that we are regularly being overflown? And is it a just reward for those who report the matter to be laughed to scorn by the very authority to which we look for our protection? If our Members of Parliament and our newspapers cannot help us, to whom can we turn?

The Government's behaviour has led to folly in high places. Believing in these baseless communiqués, many an eminent scientist and astronomer has also gone astray. Swallowing the propaganda neat, people like Dr. Menzel have written, perhaps unwittingly, learned tomes in support of government policy. One need not be a Professor at Harvard (though it undoubtedly helps) to invent a series of rationalisations for each incident. Each saucer *could* have been this or it *could* have been that. It also *could* have been a flying saucer. The argument runs endlessly, but we know that experts can be fallible and that the Wiltshire crater, which was at first said to have been caused by a meteorite, was not so caused. Those experts who made fools of themselves cannot now run to cover any more by saying it *could* still have been caused by a meteorite. All we now need to ask is: "Where is it and what has happened to the piece of old ironstone which you once held in your hand in triumph?" This is perhaps the most significant part of the incident. A whole process has been put into reverse. An "explanation" has exploded in the face of authority and it is interesting to note that the reflexes still work as though nothing had ever happened. The cursed crater must still be explained away or it will stand as a permanent scar on a professional reputation. The best thing that Patrick Moore can do is to remain silent and never again offer an opinion about flying saucers. We doubt whether he will take our friendly advice, so he will now face the certainty that every time he pontificates he will hear a thousand cries of "Seen any good meteorites lately?" and he will taste the most corrosive of all acids, the ridicule that blows back in a pedant's face.

The believer in saucers has had much to bear, but his best armour has always been the facts, the pattern and the emerging system of a new science which Aimé Michel and Jacques Vallée have pioneered. Here is a better defence than the ignorance and prejudice on which the Menzels and the Moores of this world have so unwisely staked their reputations.

Miracle of Surgery

Huw Thomas said that ten years ago newspapapers all over the world were full of reports of flying saucers . . . they had not made headlines until recently when five mysterious craters were found in various spots in England. A film taken in Adamski, California, was shown. It featured two bright spots in the sky, which the cameraman said were flying saucers.

Report of television programme in *Coulsdon & Purley Times*, September 27, 1963.

TRANSLATION BY
G.W. CREIGHTON

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ORTHOTENIC RESEARCH

BY JACQUES VALLÉE

IN this article we shall return once more to the French sightings of September 24, 1954. These sightings are well known, as they provide the most typical example of distribution along straight lines, as Aimé Michel pointed out in 1958. During the past two years a series of investigations have been carried out with a view to verifying the hypotheses put forward by him under the general name of Orthoteny, and in the course of these investigations —to which we will return later—a number of methods of analysing the alignments have been perfected. We do not propose to describe these methods in detail in the present article, but will simply give a general outline of them in order to explain to the reader one of the most recent developments which, if confirmed, might well be a new and significant indication in favour of the Straight Line Theory.

Methods for checking the alignments mathematically

No simple answer can be given immediately to the question of how we can know whether given points on: he surface of the earth are aligned or not. Since the distances between these points amount to as much as 100 kilometres, merely to link up the sightings by means of a straight line drawn with a ruler can produce only very rough indications, sufficient for the discovery of new facts but inadequate for their verification. But no hypothesis is valid if it is unproven. On the other hand, once we begin to deal in distances of the order of 100 kilometres, the problem at once arises of defining what one means by " alignment ". And here once again it is to Aimé Michel that the credit is due for having suggested that the alignments be regarded as local portions of Great Circle lines of the terrestrial globe. This point has now been proved mathematically, and it can be shown that, for example, the Bayonne-Vichy alignment is in actual fact a Great Circle arc.

It is consequently possible to determine with precision whether or not a given sighting belongs to an alignment, and thus to verify the whole body of propositions advanced by those who support the theory of Orthoteny. In order to be able to do this it is, of course, necessary to know the exact co-ordinates (latitude and longitude) of the points where the sightings occurred.

Let L_1 and φ_1 denote the co-ordinates (longitude and latitude) of the point M_1, L_2 and φ_2 the co-ordinates of M_2. The great circle given by M_1 and M_2 is defined (Fig. 1) by the quantities:

Longitude of the node (T)=longitude of the point N where the Great Circle intersects the equator.

Inclination (u)=angle at this intersection:

T and u are related by equations of the form:

$$(1)\begin{cases}\tan\varphi_1.\cot u=\sin T.\cos L_1-\cos T.\sin L_1\\ \tan\varphi_2.\cot u=\sin T.\cos L_2-\cos T.\sin L_2\end{cases}$$

From which we derive:

$$(2)\ (\tan T.\cos L_1-\sin L_1)\tan\varphi_2=(\tan T.\cos L_2-\sin L_2)\tan\varphi_1.$$

A third observation point M_3 will then be said to belong to the same great circle if its co-ordinates (L_3, φ_3) verify the relation:

$$(3)\ \frac{\sin(T-L_3)}{\tan\varphi_3}=\cot u$$

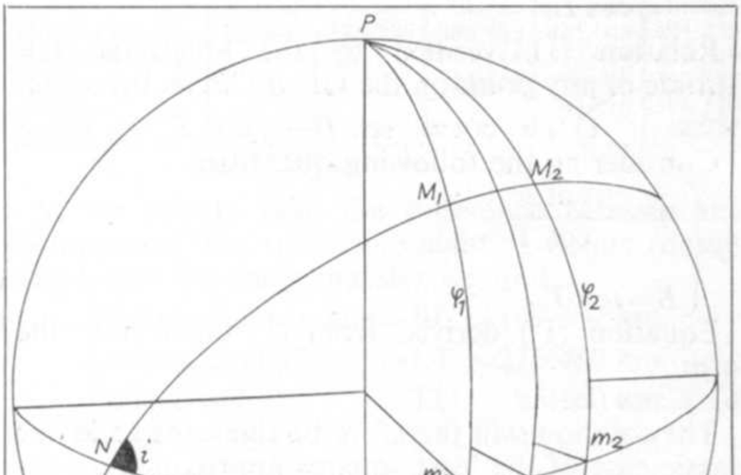


Fig. 1. Computation of a Great Circle.

By using these elementary formulae, considered as a first approximation, we have developed a series of checks of the statistical validity of the alignment systems observed, according to Michel, during the French wave of 1954. In the case of the Bayonne-Vichy alignment, to which I give the code designation of BAVIC, the computation of the elements gives:

$T=42° 0810$ west of Greenwich, $u=55° 5413$.

Computation of the elements of a Great Circle by the Least Squares Method

When a Great Circle is defined by more than three points (and one should not expect a three-point alignment to be "significant") we could merely take for its determination a mean value of T and u. The precision obtained that way is fairly good as far as only interpolation is concerned. But it is not good enough to justify conclusions or hypotheses of any kind concerning the Great Circle at a great distance (for example, more than 1,000 kilometres) from the region where the basic observations were made.

To avoid this difficulty, we have developed a more precise method for the great circle computation. In this new method the elements are computed by least squares, i.e. in such a way as to minimise the sum of the squares of the residual differences between the observed points and the theoretical points.

Let us take the following substitution:

$$(4)\quad x_i=\frac{\tan \varphi_i}{\cos L_i} \text{ and } y_i=\tan L_i$$

Relation (1), verified by the longitude and latitude of any point on the Great Circle, becomes:

$$(1')\quad x_i \cot u=\sin T—y_i \cos T$$

Considering the following quantities:

$$(5)\begin{cases} A=-\dfrac{\cot u}{\cos T} \\ B=\tan T \end{cases}$$

Equation (1′) derived from (1) takes now the form:

$$(6)\quad y_i=A.x_i+B$$

The solution will therefore be the same as in the classic case of the least squares approximation for a straight line. It is well known that the sum of the squares of the residuals:

$$(7)\quad \sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_i^2=\sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i—Ax_i—B)^2$$

will be such that: $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_i^2$ minimum

if the following conditions are satisfied:

$$(8)\quad \frac{\partial(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \epsilon_i^2)}{\partial A}=0 \quad \text{and (9)} \quad \frac{\partial(\sum_{i=1} \epsilon_i^2)}{\partial B}=0$$

From (7) we obtain the well-known relations:

$$(10)\quad A\,(\Sigma x_i^2)+B\,(\Sigma x_i)=\Sigma x_i y_i \text{ and}$$

$$(11)\quad A\,(\Sigma x_i)+N.B=\Sigma y_i$$

Consequently, the expressions of A and B take the form:

$$(12)\quad A=\frac{(\Sigma x_i)\,(\Sigma y_i)—N\,(\Sigma x_i y_i)}{(\Sigma x_i)^2—N\,(\Sigma x_i^2)} \text{ and}$$

$$B=\frac{(\Sigma x_i y_i)—A\ \Sigma x_i^2)}{(\Sigma x_i)}$$

From which T and u can be derived easily.

In the case of BAVIC, this method leads to values slightly different from the values found above:

$T=42° 1790$ west of Greenwich, $u=55° 4931$.

The difference on the value of T (longitude of the node) is of the order of magnitude of one-tenth of a degree (0° 1): the error on the point N where the Great Circle intersects the equator is approximately 10 kilometres (6 miles).

Following these calculations, we can evaluate, as a means of control, the orthogonal distances of the points observed on the theoretical trace-line of the Great Circle, and hence the mean error, and we can calculate the corresponding standard deviation. We calculate likewise a coefficient—which we call "the coefficient of validity of the Great Circle"—by means of the formula

$$v=\frac{N}{3\Delta} \qquad (13)$$

where Δ is the mean error in kilometres and N the number of the sighting points that make the alignment. The formula is drawn up in such a manner that a three-point alignment defined to the nearest kilometre has a coefficient of validity equal to 1. For BAVIC, we get $\Delta=0.384$, and $N=6$, whence $v=5.2$. It is, however, important not to attach an absolute value to the numbers obtained, for if we are absolutely strict we ought to introduce also the total length of the alignment and other statistical parameters, as the detailed discussion of the validity of an alignment across a given region is extremely complex.*

Are the sightings disposed geometrically along the alignments?

It remains nevertheless a fact that the significant character of an alignment such as the Bayonne-

*NOTE: If we bring into the calculation the length of the alignment, using the formula $W=\frac{N}{3\Delta}.\frac{L}{200}$ (L=length in kilometres), then we find, for BAVIC: $W=12.8$. A three-point alignment defined to the nearest kilometre and 200 km. long would give us $W=1$.

Vichy line is unquestionable. And the fact that we have to hand a means for calculating the theoretical trace-line of the Great Circle, permits us to grapple with a fundamental question which, treated without the aid of a precise mathematical device, could lead only to confusion and uncertainty. This question is: Are the sighting-points disposed along the alignments according to a simple law? Or, to put it in other words: If we calculate the distances between the successive sighting-points can these distances be reduced to a fundamental interval?

It is important at this stage to warn those investigators who might wish to make this experiment —without first doing the requisite set of calculations—using, for example, a ruler and a map, or using some other elementary procedure for working out the distances. For a very slight lateral distance in relation to the mean alignment can alter the validity of the length-values arrived at, and our own findings are given only with reserve, as future research on other alignments may or may not confirm them. It nevertheless seems important to us to indicate them, for they may perhaps put other investigators on the road to even more important results.

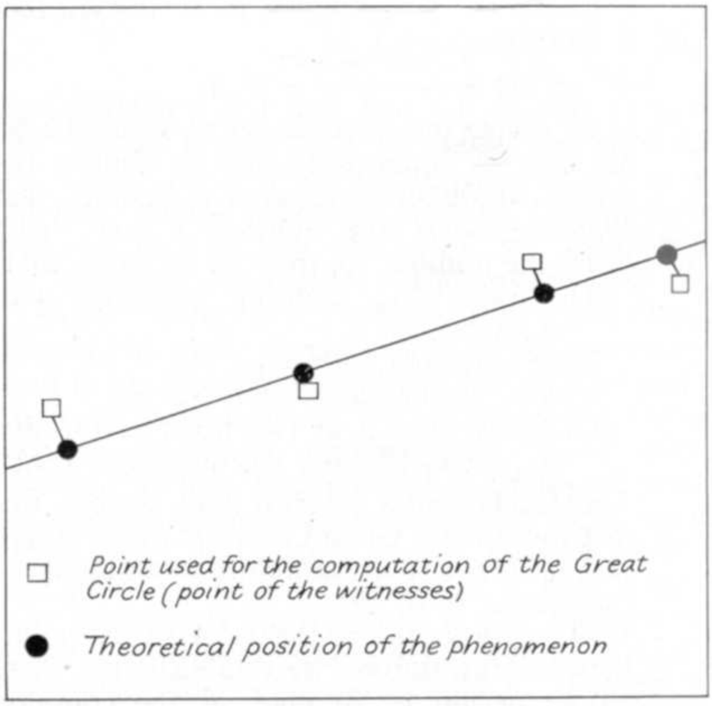


Fig. 2. The straight line is the theoretical great circle fitted through the observations by the Least Squares Method.
The co-ordinates of the points have been computed using detailed maps, from all available information concerning the position of the witnesses. Bayonne and Vichy are known fairly precisely; Lencouacq is a Type I observation defined very accurately. Tulle, Ussel and especially Gelles (Type IV observation made at night) are poorly known (to the nearest mile only).

The method followed by us consists in calculating the distances, not between the sighting-points themselves—which are inevitably subject to a certain degree of error—but between the points which belong to the theoretical trace-line of the Great Circle and which represent the "ideal" positions for the sightings. These points are consequently the bases of the perpendiculars dropped from sightings onto the theoretical trace of the alignment (Fig. 2).

In the following table we give, for each sighting-point, the co-ordinates used for the calculation by least squares, the distance in kilometres to the theoretical alignment, and the co-ordinates of the nearest Great Circle point to the point in question. What we are going to calculate are the distances between these theoretical points.

Table 1

Sighting	Point Observed		Distance to Mean Great Circle	Theoretical Point	
	Long.	Lat.		Long.	Lat.
Bayonne ...	1.47300	43.49100	0.037	1.47329	43.49126
Lencouacq	.40800	44.10200	−0.318	.40555	44.09974
Tulle ...	−1.75000	45.26000	0.151	−1.74885	45.26109
Ussel ...	−2.30900	45.54700	0.179	−2.30765	45.54830
Gelles ...	−2.76400	45.77000	0.786	−2.75809	45.77574
Vichy ...	−3.43300	46.11900	−0.835	−3.43925	46.11286

The distances between the theoretical points are given (in kilometres) in the following table.

Table 2

	Lencouacq	Tulle	Ussel	Gelles	Vichy
Bayonne ...	109.447	325.746	380.905	425.098	491.478
Lencouacq ...		214.938	269.748	313.661	379.619
Tulle ...			54.114	97.467	162.583
Ussel ...				43.210	108.110
Gelles ...					64.727

If we merely take the difference between the distances of the successive sighting-points (designated now by their initials) we find:

Bayonne-Lencouacq = BL = 109.302 km.
Lencouacq-Tulle = LT = 216.480 km.
Tulle-Ussel = TU = 55.160 km.
Ussel-Gelles = UG = 44.054 km.
Gelles-Vichy = GV = 66.355 km.

Now, among these figures the following coincidences are noted:

UV=BL (UV=UG+GV=110.409)
error: 1 km. in 110 km.

LT=2 BL (2 BL=218.604)
error: 2 km. in 220 km.

BL=2 TU (2 TU=110.320)
error: 1 km. in 110 km.

accordance with a letter from Jacques Vallee on p. 32 of Vol 10. No 1 (Jan/Feb. 1964) GW

On the other hand,

GV/6 = 11.060 km.
UG/4 = 11.013 km.
TU/5 = 11.040 km.
LT/20 = 10.824 km.
BL/10 = 10.930 km.

The MEAN of which numbers = 10.973.

If now we examine all the values of one same distance which can be extracted, by combination, starting from Table 2, we find:

						Mean Values
BL =	109.302					109.302 km.
LT =	216.480	215.119				215.779 km.
TU =	55.160	54.811	54.114			55.028 km.
UG =	44.054	43.775	43.216	43.075		43.530 km.
GV =	66.355	65.934	65.093	64.875	64.707	65.375 km.

These values lead us to:

GV/6 = 10.896 km.
UG/4 = 10.822 km.
TU/5 = 11.005 km.
LT/20 = 10.780 km.
BL/10 = 10.930 km.

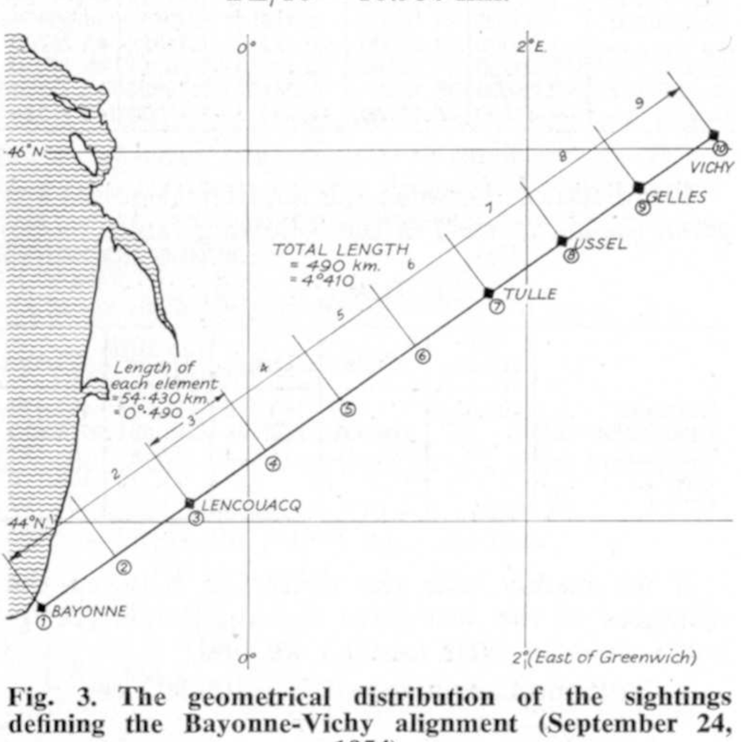


Fig. 3. The geometrical distribution of the sightings defining the Bayonne-Vichy alignment (September 24, 1954).

The MEAN of these numbers = 10.886.

Finally, we arrive at the conclusion that the sightings on the Bayonne-Vichy alignment on September 24, 1954, are geometrically disposed following a Great Circle arc, as is shown in Fig. 3.

Conclusion

Given the French sightings of September 24, 1954, at Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Ussel, Gelles and Vichy, and considering, on the one hand, the topographical distribution of these sightings and, on the other hand, the lengths of the Great Circle arcs by which they are joined, we get then the following results:

(1) The Great Circle arc having appeared to be the curve which provides the best portrayal of the sighting-points, we have computed the component elements of the Bayonne-Vichy Great Circle by a direct trigonometric method and by least squares, which lead us then to the adoption of the values:

$L = 42°\ 13$ ~~is not equal~~ plus or minus to 0° 05 West of Greenwich

$i = 55°\ 52$ ~~is not equal to~~ plus or minus 0° 02

(2) If we divide the Bayonne-Vichy Great Circle arc into ~~ten~~ nine equal parts, and we number the points so obtained in such a manner that Bayonne bears the number 1 and Vichy bears the number 10, then we establish that:

The Lencouacq sighting coincides with point No. 3.
Tulle coincides with point No. 7.
Ussel coincides with point No. 8.
Gelles is located at two-fifths of the distance Ussel-Vichy, starting from Ussel.

The fundamental interval that defines this distribution is a Great Circle arc of the length of 54.430 km., corresponding to an angle, at the centre, of 0° 49.

If we consider the distances of all the points between themselves, we establish that these values permit us to take, as the common denominator, a distance of 10.930 km.

These results are verified to the nearest hundredth.

The truth: some suggestions for the investigator

by Peter F. Sharp, B.Sc.

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews. . . .

St. John XVIII, 37 & 38.

PERHAPS if Pilate had not chosen to make his exit at that point we might be very much wiser about truth. Being unfortunate in not having a divine definition of truth, I propose, for the purposes of this discussion, to define truth as " a precise description of the facts as they are."

In our subject truth is frequently a preoccupation of the researcher and usually his preoccupation is in direct proportion to the strangeness of the case he is studying. For example, if a witness reports seeing a silvery, oval-shaped object flashing silently across the sky, his report would go on file almost without question. But if, on the other hand, he reports seeing a space craft on the ground, or even worse, claims to have actually met hominoids from inside it, his account will receive an entirely different reception. In fact, if the researcher is of one school of thought the witness will be practically dubbed a liar before questioning starts, and similarly others of the opposite persuasion will almost have him signed up for a lecture tour before meeting him. Familiarity breeds, not contempt, but acceptance; the unusual has doubt as its handmaiden.

As already indicated, one of the dangers in the rarer type of sightings is the preconceived notions of the investigator. A bigoted or biased researcher is a block to the truth if only in that he will unduly stress those parts of the report that fit his beliefs. This being in addition to having a preference for those questions that will tend to get the witness to reply in the pattern he, the questioner, expects him to according to his preconceived beliefs. For example, there is still a small school of thought that accepts that many, if not all, UFOs originate here on earth. Supporters of this thesis can be understandably excused if they interpret markings on the side of space craft as being from a terrestrial alphabet, or if they emphasise any sounds made by the object and play down unearthly characteristics. Because emphasis and bias cannot be humanly eliminated from reporting (and the American Government's experiences with automatic punch-card systems seem to have been less than successful), we should only build theories based on a large number of cases so that the statistical probability outweighs human prejudice. The outstanding case, in my judgment, of building up a theory on such a paucity of evidence that the theoretical superstructure topples under its own weight was that propounded by Civilian Research Interplanetary Flying Objects in their newsletter *Orbit* in 1955. This was that the actions of the UFOs were so hostile as to " constitute a state of interplanetary war." Eight years on from that statement I do not feel it necessary to make any comment.

The two points I have been trying to make in the above are:

(i) the investigator should always bear in mind the scarcity factor, i.e. his normal reaction is to become increasingly sceptical as the unusualness of the case increases.

(ii) theories must only be built on wide experience and documentation; e.g. orthoteny would be a poor thing if only Aimé Michel could find orthotenies.

In what follows there will be some truisms, and in anticipation of the criticism that I am merely stating the obvious I must point out that it is all too easy to lose sight of the obvious, especially in this subject, and we never lose anything by its restatement.

The majority of people, to the best of their

ability, tell the truth about what they have seen.

Consider a set of people composed of habitual liars and those who habitually tell the truth. Ask one of the set to which type he belongs. Now if he is truthful he will say so; but consider if he is a liar. If he says "I am a liar" he is telling the truth, so he replies that he is truthful. This unremarkable result should remind us that anyone who sets out to be a deliberate liar will scarcely admit the fact under close questioning, unless, of course, there is overwhelming factual evidence that disproves his story. In our subject such evidence that would destroy a perjurer is unlikely to be obtained and we cannot, therefore, expect a contact claimant suddenly to admit he is a hoaxer.

A mental "shift"

A truism? Yet I remember a case some years ago of a man who claimed to have conversed with a Martian; his story contained within it, it seemed to me, the seeds of its own destruction, namely astronomical inaccuracies and studied vagueness on vital matters. I repeated my doubts to a well-known investigator who had interviewed the man. He retorted that he was inclined to believe the man because he neither admitted any deception nor gave way on any matter under skilful cross-examination.

The fact is, of course, that people do not break down under this sort of examination if they have a modicum of intelligence and their facts cannot readily be checked.

My knowledge of psychology is scant, but it seems to me that some of the contact stories may be regarded as follows. A person perpetrates a hoax more out of fun than anything else and enjoys giving Press conferences, of meeting the various cranks who appear to question him, etc. Then the police and/or the Air Force arrive and go over his story with studied carefulness. Our hoaxer is quite glib now, having repeated his tale so often, and he has already met most of the tricky questions and thought out suitable answers, but—and this is an important "but"—he is a little frightened that his hoax is being taken so seriously. Alternatively he may feel flushed with success. In either case I think that at this point his mind undergoes a shift. He makes the decision to go on with the hoax. If he was frightened, the way to avoid mental conflict with his own conscience is to believe his own story. No longer does he suffer mental strife, he has made his decision, he is at peace with himself. He becomes more convincing than ever because he is genuinely outraged if anyone doubts his story. New successes follow and his belief in his own hoax is confirmed and reinforced.

A similar process occurs if he carries on his hoax in the flush of success. However, in this instance I would imagine that he does not delude himself to the same extent, but in both cases a vicious circle is set up, lies reinforcing the will to more lies.

A third type of delusion might occur with the "evangelical" type of contactee. Here the witness uses his hoax as a vehicle for his *genuine* concern over the state of mankind, the threat of a nuclear holocaust, man's lack of spirituality, etc. His propaganda is avidly received by the many who are ready to share in his concern and for whom his revelation strikes a sympathetic note. In their eagerness to accept the message these people also accept the contact story. It is like a religious conversion at a primitive level. One is also reminded of the converts to communism; once Marx has been swallowed the convert readily accepts Lysenko. Again the hoaxer's mind undergoes a shift; the end justifies the means. Since he regards the message as the Truth, then the vehicle for it, the contact, must also be true and he believes it himself.

Hints for the Investigator

I think that we all have had experiences where we have started on a course of action without much thought or just by chance, only to find that the ensuing events have enmeshed us and have fully committed us. These experiences are the only experimental evidence for the analysis above, but before someone rushes to point out that I have already stated that we should build theories only on wide experience and documentation, let me add that I was throwing off ideas in the hope that someone better qualified for the task than myself could decorate them with sufficient facts to turn them into theories.

If my analysis does hold good, then its importance for the investigator is obvious. One thing that emerges is that it is vital to be on the scene quickly, for not only will the facts be fresh in the mind of the witness if genuine, but also if a hoax is involved the hoaxer will be less practised in his story and thus likely to make slips, and, most important of all, may not yet have undergone the mental change so that he believes in his own tale. One must always bear in mind whilst investigating contact reports that the most important evidence available is the witness himself. The investigator will be used to ascertaining whether the witness is giving objec-

tive or subjective judgments about speed, height, etc., but does he note what coloured words the witness uses? By coloured words I mean those likely to carry emotional overtones. To give an extreme example here is part of a fictitious account of a contact of the "evangelical" type: the spaceman radiated a feeling of warmth, well-being, peace and calmness. His voice was soft and melodious and his expression echoed his words: "We of the Brotherhood wish you Earthlings to cease your nuclear explosions."

The coloured words tell us what type of person we are dealing with and hence what possible ulterior motives he might have for a hoax. As I am a lover of a peaceful life I do not intend to put forward here any conclusions that I have come to as to the veracity of the classic cases such as those of Adamski, Allingham, etc., but may I suggest for the open-minded reader an exercise that might help him to decide for himself in such cases?

Some non-contact sightings have a greater probability of being true than others. For example, one where there were several independent witnesses; radar or photographs to back up a visual sighting; one in an orthotenic series, etc. Take several of these sightings where the actual words used by the witnesses are recorded and place their descriptions alongside descriptions of landings. The former we may take as being representative of the language used by the normal honest human-in-the-street who has seen something he cannot understand or readily categorise.

When this exercise is completed I think that the reader cannot fail to notice that several of the contactees do not talk at all like our man-in-the-street. One is tempted to follow on from this with the following deduction. Either these people were picked to be contacted by the spacemen for just those characteristics that distinguish them from the plain man, or they belong to that group of hoaxers and self-deluded persons we have discussed above. If in addition to this semantic evidence there are doubts engendered by the internal facts of the story appearing suspicious, then we are justified, I feel, in writing off the account as a hoax.

For the reasons stated at the beginning of this piece, I feel that this sort of analysis, conducted by someone who is open-minded and prepared to work on the supposition that the latest astronomical evidence on the surface conditions of the planets is to be preferred, as a yardstick, to the vapourings of suspected liars, is the only way we have of weeding out the trash from the valid evidence on this most important aspect of the subject.

Space gremlins?

Strange things have been happening in some of America's space vehicles and puzzled scientists can give only one explanation: there must be gremlins up there. Experts at a satellite conference in Blacksburg, Virginia, this week were asked about these odd happenings. Lights on the ANNA goedetic sphere resumed flashing after months of inactivity;

Blinking beacons on the Fire-fly satellite began fading last year and finally stopped. The beacons mysteriously reappeared this week. Telstar 2 ceased transmitting on July 17. Last Monday it came back to life. The first Telstar also recovered by itself after going out of action. Power in the Venus-bound Mariner spacecraft cut off after it had apparently been struck by a meteorite—and then suddenly returned.

Commenting on the ANNA mystery, Mr. Richard Kershner, of the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University, which developed the satellite, said: "We have no explanation of the lights coming back on. We don't like to believe in space gremlins, but we've reached the point where that's as good an explanation as any."

From the Nottingham *Guardian Journal*, August 15.

MORE NEWS OF SIRAGUSA

by Gordon W. Creighton

In accordance with its declared policy, the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW refuses to suppress reports of contacts. It is, of course, impossible to confirm or to deny the truth of Sr. Siragusa's statements for which there appears to be no corroborative evidence. Having made this point clear, the REVIEW prints the following account with an open mind.

IN the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for January-February of this year I gave an account of the experiences of Signor Eugenio Siragusa, the Italian Customs official who claimed that he had twice met and spoken with extra-terrestrials during 1962.

In the *Domenica Del Corriere* for September 1, the journalist Renato Albanesi returns once more to the Siragusa story. He explains that Siragusa has written him a letter dated August 13 to say that he has now had a third encounter with the spacemen. He says that this took place between 9.15 and 9.45 p.m. on August 9, beside an unfrequented road that runs from the vicinity of Mount Etna to Ragalna.

The saucer, some 15 metres in diameter and surrounded by a faint light which was constantly changing from blue to greenish-yellow, remained suspended a few feet above the ground. Two beings, dressed in exactly the same way as those whom he had met on the two previous occasions, descended by a sort of stairway projecting from the under-part of the machine, and approached to a point two metres distant from Siragusa. Having delivered a fraternal greeting, they then requested him to listen attentively in order to memorize the important message which they wished him to convey on their behalf to all the peoples of the Earth. They mentioned, in particular, that before 1967 official contact between them and us would possibly take place.

They urged him to join with them "in joyfulness of heart and mind, for it is true indeed that, if love prevails over hatred and peace prevails over war, days of great happiness await you. . . ."

They then gave him an account of their cigar-shaped and disc-shaped craft. They said that their maximum speed when within the atmospheric envelope of a planet was 300,000 *km.* per second, but that in interstellar space they attained a *hundred times that speed.* They said: "The Constellations which you behold above you teem with intelligent life, but there are still thousands waiting to be colonized by intelligent beings, provided, of course, that these are sufficiently highly evolved."

Signor Siragusa seems to have given no information on this occasion as to the size of the visitors, but as the saucer was a small one of only 15 metres diameter it seems logical to assume that they were the smaller men (about 5 ft. 4 in.) met by him on the first occasion (April 30, 1962) and not the seven-foot giants who came out of a saucer over 80 ft. wide and spoke to him at the second meeting (September 4, 1962).

Nor is there any precise information as to the nature of the message which Siragusa was to pass on to mankind, but we know that the messages of 1962 had to do with the nuclear dangers now facing us, and we may assume that this third message was of the same tenor. (Incidentally, in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for November-December, 1962, I reported that according to a story that had leaked out of Russia, in 1961 a Soviet woman had been "captured" by a saucer while making a parachute-jump, and had landed three days later, "with a message for mankind.")

In his letter to the *Domenica Del Corriere* Signor Siragusa goes on to say: "Once again it has been my privilege to serve as the mouthpiece of beings from other worlds. I fully realise how difficult it is to overcome the obstacles of doubt and scepticism, but, believe me, what I describe is true, the very essence of truth. From the replies that the space visitors gave to my own questions, it is abundantly clear that they possess a perfect wisdom, a truly vast and prodigious scientific knowledge in respect of all the realms attainable by the human mind. . . . They come with the sole desire of imparting to us, in a disinterested spirit, the knowledge of their existence and of the pos-

sibility for us to receive, from their profound knowledge in every field of enquiry knowable to man, an impetus which could help us serenely upwards to higher and nobler levels of being."

In conclusion, I will say a few words about the position of this important Italian newspaper, *Domenica Del Corriere,* in this matter of the UFOs, and about the views of Renato Albanesi himself. Albanesi endeavours in this issue to convey the impression that he is still a complete sceptic. However, he admits that saucer reports are still coming in from various parts of Italy, and from all over the world. He says it is absolutely astonishing what a large proportion of the Italian public now firmly believes in the existence of the saucers, and he feels therefore that, as reporters, he and his colleagues owe it to the public to give the facts. He promises that he will give further Italian sightings in a future issue. In the meantime, he emphasises that his paper have had careful enquiries made in Catania about Eugenio Siragusa, and that all who know him—including Siragusa's office colleagues in the Customs, and the local doctor, and the local Chief of Police—have testified that he is an excellent and thoroughly sane person, highly respected, efficient in his work, and that there is not the least ground for considering him capable of lying, or committing a hoax, or of being under any sort of delusion.

ANOTHER SPEECH BY WILBERT B. SMITH

In the September-October issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there was printed a speech by the late Wilbert B. Smith, head of the Canadian Project Magnet and one of the most honoured of UFO investigators. He died two years ago and we are grateful to Vancouver Flying Saucer Club for permission to reproduce in print extracts from this speech which was delivered to the Club in March 1961.

Much of what Mr. Smith said must be regarded as controversial and the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is endeavouring to discover the facts behind the assertions, but it should be remembered that Mr. Smith occupied a responsible position in the Canadian Government and was highly respected even by those who disagreed with him.

MUCH of the information which we obtained from extra-terrestrial sources casts some serious doubts on the validity of some of the basic concepts of our science. For one thing, they told us that the velocity of light was not a constant. As a matter of fact, they seemed to be rather pointed in their statement that light does not travel— *it is*! We told them that from our point of view, it appears to travel with a certain definite velocity of a hundred and eighty-six thousand miles per second. They said: "That's the way it looks to *you* because you are looking at it in and from a region having certain conditions, certain influences. But if you were to get away from this region (meaning the vicinity of the earth) you would find that a different set of figures prevailed."

Another thing they told us cast a great deal of doubt on our ideas of time. They told us that time wasn't at all what we thought it was—namely, something that might be marked off with a ticking of a clock. That time was, in fact, a field function—the result of there being a Universe. That it was something that was derived from the basic primordial concept which brought this Universe into being, and that it differed as you went from one part of the Universe to another.

Also, it could be altered, sometimes by natural means, sometimes by intelligently controlled means in various parts of the Universe, so that in any given interval—evidently, what our clocks mark off are intervals, not chunks, of time—in these intervals we can have all sorts of lengths of time. In other words, if one of you here checks his clocks with mine and finds they are synchronised, and I then climb into a flying saucer and take a little trip well clear of the earth and I watch my clock as I come back in, say, three hours' time—we again compare clocks. Maybe your clock says I've been gone one hour—my clock says I've been gone three hours. Both clocks are strictly correct. You, in that given interval, in the time the big hand of the clock went round once, experienced one hour. In that *same* interval, between the ticks of the clock, I experienced three hours, and they were three real hours, not an illusion. The Theory of Relativity talks about time dilation, but this leads to a para-

dox, and I think that anyone who is at all mathematically inclined, and has taken the trouble to look at the relativistic time paradox, has probably been rather disturbed by it.

According to the theory of relativity, if I climb into a spacecraft and I set out from the earth here at a velocity very nearly the velocity of light, and I go out to, say, Alpha Proxima, and then I turn round and come back, people on earth say that I've been gone something like ten years. According to my clock, I've only been gone a year.

Now that is a result, apparently, of time dilation in the theory of relativity, in that the spacecraft in which I travel was moving relative to the earth at a velocity nearly equal to the velocity of light. The paradox arises when you consider that relative to the spacecraft, the earth was travelling away at exactly the same velocity. Therefore, to the people on the spacecraft, who are relatively stationary, ten years should have passed, and by the time the earth comes back to them, it should only have been away a year. So you can see right away that the very premise upon which the theory of relativity is predicated—namely, that if A is relative to B, then B must be relative to A—leads you to an impossible paradox. This paradox is resolved completely if you recognise the variable nature of time, and as you move round from one part of the Universe to another you'll encounter all sorts of values of time in certain given intervals. We become slaves to the clock to the extent that we believe that the intervals ticked out by the clock are time itself, so we find it very difficult to readjust. Now I don't propose to say any more about this particular aspect, but I would like to say something on the subject of the craft themselves.

We asked them how they were supported, and they said they were supported *on* the earth's gravitational field. Further studies on our own, with occasional references to these people from elsewhere, and we figured out what was really taking place to the extent that we were able to go into the laboratory and conduct a series of experiments which proved beyond doubt that this is true.

Our laboratory experiments have allowed us to make about a one per cent. change in the weight of objects—we can make them about one per cent. heavier or one per cent. lighter. Now that is a long way from holding a spacecraft up, because we have to go over one hundred per cent. to do that. But the fact that we *can* do it—the fact that the principles which these people from outside gave us and guided us to finding out for ourselves are valid—certainly indicate that, first, these people are what they say they are, and, secondly, that their technology is that *they* say it is, that it is superior to ours and that ours is inadequate in many respects. [Quite a lengthy description on the blackboard followed at this point.]

Now we understand that these bells (Mr. Smith is referring to the bell-shaped spacecraft said to come from Venus, which have been photographed by Adamski and others) operate on this principle. Underneath the bells are three things that people have referred to as "landing gear." They are not landing gear at all—they are spheres within which a charged sphere is rotating. It is spinning on magnetic bearings. Magnetic bearing is something else the people from outside gave us the design of. It is very simple in section, and this is the north pole and this is south, and in it they have a thing that looks like this, with a south and this a north [here obviously Mr. Smith is again demonstrating on the blackboard]. They are just simply ferrite bearings permanently magnetized. We built them ourselves and checked them in the lab, and they worked perfectly. They are very simple things. The spheres carry an electric charge and they spin on this type of bearings down inside these big balls. We are told that the tilt is simply produced by rotating the sphere a little bit, which bends the field. The process is much more complicated than would appear from what I am telling you, but these are the first steps and the end results—even though there are other steps in between.

Now one other thing I would like to mention—as far as I know, our group in Ottawa is the only group that has actually taken the information which was given to us by the people from outside and translated it into hardware that works. Much information has been given to us through various channels, but people just talk about it. They don't do anything about it. I think that is deplorable. I think that when they give us information, the least we can do is to show our good faith by trying at least to convert that information into hardware.

We have built two items of hardware on their instructions, which I'm rather proud of. One of these pieces of hardware is a coil. It has a ferrite core and a trick winding on it. To look at, it looks rather like an oddly wound inductor. When measured on a radio frequency bridge, however, it shows very peculiar properties. There are certain frequencies at which it is impossible to balance the RF bridge, and that is a direct contradiction to what any electrical engineer will

tell you should happen with a coil wound on a ferrite core.

The other item that I'm rather proud of resulted from a series of questions that we asked regarding accidental destruction or damage to our aircraft by flying into the vicinity of flying saucers. And we were informed that, although a few of our aircraft had come to an unfortunate end by what they considered the colossal stupidity of our pilots in flying into a region where the aircraft was bound to get into trouble, they said that they are now taking corrective measures and whenever they see one of our aircraft about to commit suicide, they just get out of the way and give him a wide berth. But I asked, if an aircraft was damaged or destroyed, what happened? They said well, the field surrounds the saucers in order to hold them up. In order to produce the gravity differentials, time field differentials are necessary to operate the ships. These sometimes produced field combinations which reduced the strength of materials to the point where they were no longer strong enough to carry the loads that the materials were expected to carry. Now as we know, aircraft—particularly the military type aircraft—are built with a rather small factor of safety, and if they fly into a region of reduced binding, the material is no longer strong enough to carry the load, and the craft simply comes apart.

Now we asked a series of questions about—was it possible for our craft to detect these regions so that we would not fly into them, and they said that it certainly was, and they would give us the design of an instrument which would do this very thing. They also told us that we ourselves were creating regions which were much more dangerous than the regions which they established in the vicinity, because we could detect the presence of their craft and give them a wide berth, but we could not detect without instruments the presence of these vortices which we ourselves had produced. They gave us the design of the instrument* which was fundamentally this—they said to select two materials, one stronger than the other, and to arrange so that these materials pulled against each other in such a manner that the weaker material was very near its breaking point, and the strong material was a long way from its breaking point. On that basis we devised instruments, and we built a number of them in the shop and sent them around to various people that we know did quite a bit of travelling. We asked them if they would investigate the regions through which aircraft must have passed just prior to breaking up in mid-air, and we have unfortunately large records of our airplanes having done just this.

One of these unexplained crashes occurred at a place called Essudon, which is about 20 miles south and west of Quebec City. We investigated the region through which this B.O.A.C. aircraft must have passed just prior to its crash, and, sure enough—big as life and twice as natural—we found a very large and very strong vortex. Our instruments showed it beyond a doubt. It was about a thousand feet in diameter and roughly circular, with a rather sharp line of demarcation at the edge of it.

You will recall also that about two or three years ago, possibly a little longer, a jet aircraft crashed into a nunnery at Orleans, just out from Ottawa, killed a number of people and did a great deal of damage. In fact, the jet engine itself was finally dug out of the sub-soil about thirty feet below the foundations of this convent. We investigated that one. Once again we found a very strong vortex of reduced binding. We had a number of reports come in from the people in the field who found exactly the same thing. I wrote a very stiff memorandum to the appropriate people in my own department, pointing out some of these facts. I did not state where we got the information, but simply stated that we had instruments which showed the existence of these regions of reduced binding, and suggested that something be done about it. The letter wound up on the "crank" file. I'm afraid that is the fate of most of these things—they wind up on the "crank" file. However, that does not in any way change the fact that these regions of reduced binding exist. People from outside told us they existed, they gave us the design of instruments, we built the instruments and we have confirmed the fact.

QUESTION: Could you explain why they have curtailed the explosions of nuclear bombs?

I can only guess at why the nuclear explosions have been curtailed. I saw a picture which I know was never released to be public, showing a very large nuclear explosion in the Bikini series. This picture showed the enormous fireball which I think must have been well over a hundred miles in diameter, and shooting out from it were what looked like solar prominences—in other words, they were great tongues of activity of some kind. Now these tongues looked to me, from the scale of this picture, to be around 25-50 miles. They were quite comparable in size to the fireball. Now, my guess is that these tongues or prominences were in fact chain reactions taking

* See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March-April, 1961.

place in the earth's atmosphere. What mechanism was involved, I can only guess, I'm not a nuclear physicist—I only know that this picture was considered by those knowledgeable to be very significant, and very worrisome. I think another reason, possibly, for the curtailing of the tests has been the rising public opinion. It would be highly undesirable to go any further into this business of nuclear weapons than we have already gone—possibly we have gone too far already. I would say that there is a very good possibility that these explosions have a far more disastrous effect down in the interior of the earth than anything we can see on the surface. I have the most serious misgivings about these atom bomb explosions.

QUESTION: Mr. Smith, can you give a word or two on their apparent ability to de-materialise?

I find it very intriguing, this business of appearing and disappearing. If you consider a point here, about which the time is not uniformly distributed—in other words, as you come out from here you have less and less and less time, or, looking at it the other way, the tempic field is greater in here than it is out there. If you have a beam of light which consists of a series of wave fronts passing through this region, since there is less time in this part and greater tempic field intensity or less time, this doesn't get to go as far in a given interval as this fellow does [Mr. Smith is evidently demonstrating on the blackboard]. This light beam bends, so that here it moves in this direction and over there it moves in that direction. What apparently happens is that the light is bent around this particular point. It is very much the same as the trick the magician does when he makes the elephant disappear on the stage. You are really looking at a mirror, and you see the curtains at the back, and they just simply switch the light off on the elephant and switch it on the curtains so that you don't see the elephant through the plate-glass any more—you just see the curtains and you think the elephant has disappeared.

But when you look at a saucer which has increased the tempic field in the vicinity of the saucer, you find that the light tends to approach the saucer in this fashion, go round it and out the other side, so that what little light comes directly from the saucer occupies such a very, very small portion of your field of vision that you think the saucer, if you see it at all, you think it's tiny—about the size of a dime, maybe, or maybe the end of that piece of chalk—when in reality the thing may be a hundred and fifty feet in diameter. You are literally looking past the saucer.

Now we saw one of the little monitors do exactly that trick. We had very good reason to believe that a certain conversation that we were having with a friend of mine was being monitored by one of these little fellows. So when we came out of the house, we made a definite effort to locate it. It was down in a ditch just in front of the house, and as soon as we spotted it, apparently the people who were controlling it became aware of the fact, as soon as we spotted it we saw what appeared to be just like a heat-wave, something like a foot in diameter. Popped out of the centre of this was what appeared a little disc about so big, and it just took off like that and disappeared into the great blue yonder. I think the whole operation probably occurred in less than maybe two seconds, but we were looking right at it, and there were three of us, and we all saw the same thing. And, knowing this trick about the field, we figured that that was how it was done.

PERSONAL COLUMN

SPACE REVIEW publishes current news on astronomy and space research, including Fortean phenomena. Single copies 2s. 4d. (40c.), post free. From Miss S. Stebbing, 2 Station Road, Frimley, Surrey.

Wanted copy of Miller's *Flying Saucers, Fact or Fiction*? Offers to Mr. F. E. C. Lawn, 13 Blechynder Road, St. James, Western Australia.

Any views on UFOs? Express them in *Saucer Forum*. Contact J. Goddard, Wynchlands, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the British UFO Association: Birmingham: November 23. Write for details to: 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Surrey.

MYSTERY SATELLITES

BY JOHN D. LLEWELLYN

IN the May-June issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW the article on satellites mentioned six space craft of "status unknown," which had been put into orbit. Mr. Peter Fairley stated that "neither the U.S. or Soviet Union would own up" to these being any of their space shots.

Previously a State Department spokesman had announced that Russia is believed to have been responsible for five secret space objects between September 1, 1962, and January 7, 1963.

The *Sunday Telegraph* of June 30 carried an article by John Delin headed "12 Russian Space Efforts Fail," which refers to the above launchings and also mentions speculations about the number of possible lost cosmonauts. Readers of *Fate* magazine will recall the excellent article by Frank Edwards in the September, 1962, issue with full details of launchings and the possible number of those lost. The John Delin article concluded: "Russian reaction has included denials and publication in the press of letters about the missing cosmonauts."

A search in the "Table of Artificial Earth Satellites" issued by the Royal Aircraft Establishment reveals that six objects were launched between September 1 and January 7 with the tentative identification of "Sputniks" 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 with uncertain or unknown orbital data.

From the information given on the fantastically accurate detection system for objects in orbit including even the location of nuts and bolts and pieces of the "junk yard in space," it seems incredible and most disturbing to imagine what the hundreds of UFO sightings must be doing to the defence systems of the world.

As mentioned in the January-February, 1961, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW article, the object photographed by the Grumman Corporation was in a retrograde orbit. It is of interest to note that it was seen within 10 minutes of the ECHO satellite transits as stated by Grumman. Something more has been heard of this type in that two observations from Stratford-upon-Avon occurred on August 16 and September 3, 1960, agreeing as to colour and size. Also it is not unknown to observers belonging to the world-wide tracking organisation (COSPAR) for artificial earth satellites.

A Midlands Moonwatch observer reported a reddish-coloured object in a SSE.-NNW. transit, slow moving, no trail, on September 17, 1961.

The October 1 issue of *Satellite News Bulletin* reported an observation from Cheltenham of, again, a reddish-coloured object, SE. to NW., naked eye brightness—suggested height 60-100 n.m.—on August 20, 1962. A corroboration of this sighting appeared in the October 16 issue from an observer at Bentley, near Walsall, who in a personal letter confirmed all the details given, including the colour.

A request for possible identification to the world—data centre at Slough brought forth the reply: "The object of August 20 seems unlikely to have been a satellite. Its direction of motion from E. to W. would necessitate the satellite moving in a retrograde orbit with inclination of about 130°. The usual orbital inclinations are at less than 100°—Lunik 3 is thought to have entered the atmosphere in April, 1960."

The above sightings seem to be further observations of the Grumman object.

There has since been a satellite launched in a retrograde orbit but it is not so much this type of orbit but the colour observed which gives any orbital object seen an identification of "unknown." No artificial earth satellite is seen other than having a star-like appearance. This can be steady or flashing, slow moving (ECHO has been observed for 25 minutes—horizon to horizon—appearing to "stagger" at times due to atmospheric disturbance) and extremely fast moving. Usual rule—the higher the satellite, the slower it appears to move, and vice-versa. Generally speaking, there are approximately 12 satellites which can be seen by the naked eye.

It should be noted that satellites can disappear or re-appear into and out of the earth's shadow. This is known as eclipse entry or exit. They are also seen rising straight up or "falling down." If seen to enter or exit on transit they can give rise to good UFO sightings (ref. Whitley Bay, Pacific sighting—FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March-April, 1963, issue).

To puzzle us further, satellite ANNA carries a powerful light which is switched on when passing over four photographic observing stations.

METEORS OR SAUCERS?

BY D. WARD

The Wiltshire crater incident, fully reported in the September-October, 1963, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has brought the topic of meteors and meteorites very much to the fore. Professional sceptics like Dr. Menzel and Patrick Moore have always included meteors as being among the causes of saucer sightings. However, it has never occurred to these gentlemen that the shoe could be on the other foot and that genuine saucer sightings in the past may have been ascribed to meteors for want of any other rationalisation. The following examples were taken from the report issued by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, for 1876-77, a period well in advance of weather balloons, aeroplanes and sputniks.

1872 *September* 5
Iowa City, U.S.A.

Its course was Sioux City to Iowa, Chicago and Pittsburgh and thence to the Atlantic Ocean. The meteor was very large and red in colour, its flight was majestic and grand. It had a spiral or wavy motion, and it passed clean across the United States from the Missouri to the Atlantic.

1876 *July* 25
Richmond Park, Surrey

At about 10 p.m. This was violet at first, then green in front and red behind at last. It moved slower than meteors usually move. Its course was from south to north. Its appearance: nucleus pear-shaped, followed at last by numerous globules which broke off it. No visible light streak was left on its track, and it first appeared behind trees.

1876 10 *p.m., July* 25
Downham, Norfolk

Very large and bright meteor having a sea-green colour and moving slowly and majestically. At Brompton it was a brilliant blue and pear-shaped, followed by a train of red sparks. Near London the object was greenish purple.

1876 9.35 *p.m.*
Douglas, Isle of Man

Meteor was yellowish, changing to greenish-blue, and moving slower than meteors usually do. Also it moved nearly horizontally at first, then gradually declining.

1876 10.14 p.m., September 19
Bristol

This meteor had a very slow motion and left a bright phosphorescent streak which was visible for three minutes.

1876 5.45 *p.m., November* 6
Orsay, near Paris

Bright meteor, smaller than the moon's disk, and moved slowly and horizontally towards the south. The meteor had a globular nuclear which left a slight streak on its course.

1876 9.53 *p.m., November* 29
Newcastle upon Tyne

This was a small, white meteor which moved slowly and had a globular shape.

1877 10.31 *p.m., January* 7
Birmingham

The meteor was the apparent size of Venus and moved very slowly, with a slight undulation as if forcing its way with difficulty. Its colour was deep-yellow merging into ruby-red towards the tail. Matter was apparently projected from the head and formed a long train behind it.

1877 10.32 *p.m., January* 7
Near London

The meteor had an unusually slow motion and at one place halted for two seconds. Several meteors were seen on the same evening, which equalled Jupiter in brightness, with slow motions.

1877 9.57 *a.m.*
British Isles

Several observations of this very luminous fireball were recorded and were collected and compared together. The meteor was exceedingly luminous at places near its line of flight over the Bristol Channel and in Ireland as its body of brightly coloured light sailed slowly through the sky. From Waterford the meteor was seen to be double, one part closely following the other in the same track, while the light was so brilliant that the coast of Kilmore, nine miles distant, became distinctly visible. All along the track fiery ashes were observed to fall nearly vertically downwards. At Basingstoke 90 miles distant green and red masses of fire seemed to be falling into adjacent fields.

1877 6.27 *p.m.*
Wolverhampton

A meteor of unusual magnitude and brilliancy moved almost perpendicularly in a south-west direction very slowly. It passed behind a cloud for the space of a second, reappearing with equal brilliancy until it vanished. Colour was pale blue and it left no visible light streak.

NOTES ON THE DUFTON FELL CRATER

JOHN BAINBRIDGE

The Charlton crater was reported fully in the September-October issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW as it had attracted the widest publicity, but others, including the Westmorland craters, were briefly reported in the World Round Up section. Here is a fuller report by a local investigator of a still unexplained phenomenon.

Location and approach.—Dufton Fell in North Westmorland. Nearest approach by car from the south: Appleby through Brough and then on to Middleton-in-Teesdale, then take the turning to High Force and proceed to London Hotel. Turn left 20 yards before hotel and proceed approximately two miles to some disused mining buildings in the valley.

Description of valley.—A shallow water-logged basin of land at a considerable height above sea-level. The gathering ground for the River Tees. No trees. No other buildings in sight other than the disused mining buildings. The two craters are clearly visible across on the hill-side on the other side of the valley. Distance away from the buildings, possibly one and a half miles.

The valley floor is little less than a treacherous bog, traversed by the River Tees and with numerous deep gullies up to six feet deep and at places six to eight feet wide. Even the firmest ground squelched underfoot with moisture. The hill-sides even up to the craters, were only a little better.

The craters.—There are two of them, approximately 150 to 200 yards apart, set well up on the hill-side about two-thirds of the way to the top. Both craters are more or less level with each other, with a slight rise of ground between them. The features of each crater are more or less identical. These consist of the "crater" itself or what, for the purpose of this report, I will call the impact areas and from which lead off down to the valley a form of extensive gullying. The gullies are very much greater in the area of damage than the actual impact areas which are only about 30 to 40 yards across. The gullies are at least half a mile in extent, probably more. In fact, they extended out of sight round the fold in the hill. Indeed, the whole phenomenon is consistent with a vast column of water being poured or dropped on to the impact area and then tearing its way down the hill-side causing severe and extensive damage on the way. Just how extensive the damage is can perhaps be visualised when I describe how at least one slab of solid earth the size of a large wardrobe had been bodily swept to one side and a mass of earth, chest high, had been piled on top. The craters themselves, which were about two feet deep and very irregular in shape, were the smallest part of the total damage. There were no magnetic reactions to be observed with my pocket compass. (There would seem to be no apparent connection with the UFO problem, though the mystery of the 40 missing sheep must remain a puzzle if "natural phenomenon" is offered as a solution.—Editor.)

BAVIC PLOTTED AS A WORLD CIRCLE LINE

BY P. K. HAYTHORNTHWAITE

AIMÉ MICHEL'S latest discoveries are fascinating, but somewhat frustrating in their lack of detailed information about his great circle lines. Anyone wishing to investigate this field has to start very much from scratch.

I have recently calculated the path of the "BAVIC" line round the world, using Bayonne and Vichy as my two defining points. With the thought that it may be of interest to your readers, I append a table of points on "BAVIC" and some notes on it.

Having the line plotted on a map of the world certainly helps to bring it to life, and lends interest to various UFO episodes. If I remember correctly, there have been several incidents of "car chasing" along the Brazil-Paraguay border, as reported in *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* by Coral Lorenzen. "BAVIC" crosses this border in the middle.

TABLE OF POINTS ON "BAVIC"

Longitude East (Degrees)	Latitude North E.		W.	Longitude West (Degrees)
0	+	44° 22′	−	180
10	+	49° 0′	−	170
20	+	52° 7′	−	160
30	+	54° 8′	−	150
40	+	55° 15′	−	140
50	+	55° 32′	−	130
60	+	54° 58′	−	120
70	+	53° 29′	−	110
80	+	50° 57′	−	100
90	+	47° 14′	−	90
100	+	41° 45′	−	80
110	+	34° 18′	−	70
120	+	23° 57′	−	60
130	+	10° 35′	−	50
140	+	2° 30′	−	40
150	−	16° 52′	+	30
160	−	28° 42′	+	20
170	−	37° 49′	+	10
180	−	44° 22′	+	0

Negative signs in the "Latitude North" column indicate positions south of the equator. The signs in column "E" indicate the signs to be used when reading from the longitude east column, and those in column "W" when reading fro.. the longitude west column. When plotting the points on a map, the correct signs become obvious.

The table contains inevitable inaccuracies, because the two defining points, Bayonne and Vichy, are so close together on a world scale. Aimé Michel may have made his points more accurate by using the sighting in the Sierra de Gardvila. Unfortunately, he did not give the name of the village where the sighting occurred, and so it was not possible to use this in this case.

For those who wish to calculate their own great circle lines, or check the figures above (and I hope they will), the formula relating latitude and longitude on a great circle line is

$$\cos \phi = \sqrt{\frac{1-k^2}{1-k^2 \cos^2 (\theta+\alpha)}}$$

where ϕ is latitude
θ is longitude

and k and α are two constants for the given great circle which may be found by substituting into the formula the values of θ and ϕ for two known points on the line.

THE POPULATED UNIVERSE

"A grand picture of a Universe full of marvellous living creatures. Without as yet touching upon gravitation as the cause of the radiation of the suns (from afar—the stars) for millions and even billions of years, let us turn to the grand picture that the mind's eye has conjured up.

In the Milky Way alone, telescopes show billions of suns. Yet how many similar galaxies there are, which taken as a whole are a mere grain of sand in the edifice of the Universe!

The innumerable stars, or suns, shining (if we were to approach them) even more brightly than our Sun, are surrounded by still more countless numbers of planets—dark heavenly bodies receiving heat and light from their suns.

Our solar system counts them in hundreds (350); one of them is called the Earth. But who can tell how many of these earths there are in the world, and existing in conditions almost the same as those of our Earth?

Is it probable for Europe to be inhabited and not the other parts of the world? Can one island have inhabitants and numerous other islands have none? Is it conceivable for one apple-tree in the infinite orchard of the Universe to bear fruit, while innumerable other trees have nothing but foliage? Spectral analysis indicates that the substances of the Universe are the same as those of the Earth. Life also extends everywhere throughout the Universe. This life is infinitely varied. If life is varied on the Earth in relatively uniform circumstances how infinitely varied must it be in the Universe, where any conditions are possible?

All the phases in the development of living beings can be seen on the different planets. What humanity was like several thousand years ago and what will be like in a few million years—all this according to the theory of probability can be found in the planetary world.

All that which is marvellous, and which we anticipate with such a thrill, already exists but we cannot see it because of the remote distances and the limited power of our telescopes. . ."

The Call of the Cosmos by Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky. (1857-1935)

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

More news from the Black Country

The *Wolverhampton Express and Star* on August 13 reported further sightings over the district: "Two well-authenticated viewings of the Black Country's special unidentified flying object with a dangling tail have been reported to the *Express and Star* today, one of them by a man who confessed he had always been sceptical about such stories.

"First sighting report came from Mr. S. J. Day, who was in his garden at 4 Highfield Road, Dudley, at about 10.26 p.m. last night armed with binoculars. He was looking towards the east when he saw 'A bright, pear-shaped white light, blue at the bottom, which appeared to be dropping other white lights. I counted eleven of these lights dropping off the bottom, and of the eleven five were double lights.'

"He described the light as brighter than any star. It moved towards the south, maintained an even altitude (although he could not guess what the altitude was) and seemed to disappear as quickly as it came into his sight. Mr. Day said he saw the object for about one and a half minutes. It then disappeared for half a minute, but came back into sight with a bright flash, and about three and a half minutes after the first sighting there was a dull bang in the sky.

"The second sighting was reported by Mr. J. Challenger, of Gibbons Hill Road, Sedgley, a Wolverhampton bus inspector, who said: 'I have always treated these stories with a certain amount of suspicion.' Mr. Challenger was walking from the main Wolverhampton-Sedgley road towards his home with a family party at 10.24 p.m. last night when he saw in the sky to the south-east a large white light, 'much larger than a star,' underneath a lot of low cloud. According to Mr. Challenger, the light was stationary, but this light, too, appeared to drop other smaller lights. When he got home his twelve-year-old daughter told him she had seen something similar on Saturday night. Can anyone suggest an explanation of this phenomena? Is someone flying a luminous kite?

"Walsall police also received two reports of an unidentified object, showing an orange light, hovering over Birchills power station and Ocker Hill, Tipton. One report came from Mrs. Kathleen Edwards, of 88 Queen Mary Street, Walsall, whose family was motoring home from Sedgley, and the other from Mr. Raymond Laban (22), of 37 Rosamond Street, Walsall, who saw an object over the power station.

"Yet another sighting report of the same object came later from Mr. A. Orme, of 25 Wilkinson Road, Moxley, who, just about 10.30 p.m., yesterday, was riding a motor cycle from Moxley roundabout, towards Darlaston, when the object attracted his attention to his right. He stopped. Mr. Orme described the object as 'Like a flare in the sky. At first I thought it was a rocket or a firework,' he said. Looking to his right '. . . over towards Wessons and the isolation hospital,' the light was orange and seemed about a mile away. There was no sound and, said Mr. Orme, it was definitely not an aircraft. He described the behaviour of subsidiary lights underneath much as other witnesses have done, but said they went 'up and down' underneath the main light. Some of them, he went on, went above the main light for about the same distance as they went below it. At one time there were as many as three subsidiary lights visible. The whole performance, Mr. Orme said, lasted about three minutes."

North Devon visitor

The *North Devon Journal* on August 1 reported as follows: "The mysterious glowing object reported to have been seen in night skies over the Westcountry, was sighted over Woolacombe in the small hours of Tuesday morning. It was seen by Mrs. Florence Rowland, who was sitting up with a sick friend at Baggy Leap, Woolacombe. 'It was bright orange and was moving westward,' she said. 'It disappeared from my view between Lundy and Hartland Point.'"

"Round with a flat top"

The *Wandsworth Borough News* on August 28 gave the following account of a sighting in the district: "A clear and lucid account of a mysterious flying object sighted at 7.45

a.m. last Monday (August 26) was given to the *Wandsworth Borough News* by ten-year-old David Anthony Mohan, who lives at 13 Grantley House, Ackroydon Estate.

" 'Suddenly I saw something moving,' said David. 'It was travelling in a north-easterly direction and seemed to pass right over the top of Timperley Court. It was fairly high and seemed to be moving at about 60 m.p.h. Although the sun wasn't shining, it was glistening brightly like whitish silver. I didn't hear any noise of engines. I had a very good view,' continued David, 'and it was too large to be a balloon. I think it was about a hundred feet in circumference. It was roundish in shape but had a flat top, like a platform. It seemed to be a deck. From underneath was sticking out a long object like a wireless aerial, quite straight. While I watched it,' he added, 'I had it in view for about seven seconds and it disappeared behind a small cloud. I waited for it to come out of the other side but it did not reappear.'

"Close questioning does not shake any detail of David's story. He is accustomed to seeing plenty of aircraft, but is positive that he has never before seen any object resembling 'The Thing' that flew across Ackroydon Estate on Monday morning. David's family occupy one of the top maisonette flats of Grantley House, and David went to the window to look at the weather prospects for the day. On the skyline in front of him was the tall block named Timperley Court on an adjoining estate. It was a cloudy morning with no sunshine; the light was quite dull."

(Credit to Mr. Laurence Cooper.)

Landing on Wimbledon Common?

From the *Wandsworth Borough News*, August 16: "Mr. Briggs, a 28-year-old artist, says a police constable told him some weeks ago that a local woman claimed to have seen the flying saucer land, and he would like the woman to get in touch with him. She reported it to the constable while he was patrolling the common with his dog—but, upon investigation, he found nothing. The woman saw it at about 2 a.m. and described it as being the size of a double decker bus and added that she had 'never seen anything like it before in her life'.

"The constable asked her what she was doing out at that time of the morning and she replied that, not being able to sleep, she had decided to take a short walk. After her experience he suggested she should return home and go to bed. 'Unfortunately he did not take her name and address,' says Mr. Briggs, 'but had heard since that other people said they had seen this object flying over the common on the same morning.' "

Diamond shape

The *West Herts and Watford Observer* on August 9 reported a well-attested sighting over Oxhey which occurred on August 1, the same day that Mr. David Ogilvy of the London Flying School saw an object not far away at his home at Garston, Herts—an incident reported elsewhere in this issue. The Oxhey report runs as follows: "Fourteen - year - old Hampden schoolboy John Castelete saw a flying saucer in the sky last Thursday through his telescope, bought last October in the Portobello Road. At least, it might have been a flying saucer, but it could have been anything. John said it was not saucer shaped and all his friends from around his home in Oakdale Road, South Oxhey, agreed that it was 'very odd.'

"For nearly two hours John watched it, as the crowd around him became larger and larger. It appeared to be stationary, but John, with the wisdom of several months' plane spotting, remarked that it must be moving to keep up with the turn of the earth.

"Dennis Haisman, 14, John's next-door neighbour, was among the observers. 'Very strange,' was his comment. 'I have never seen anything like it before.'

"John dismissed the idea that it was a balloon. He had watched balloons before, he said, and they never remained so long. The object he described was revolving, solid in the middle, diamond-shaped and he said he could see through it at the edges. As it revolved, he said, it was at first bright and then dull alternately."

Seven UFOs over Blackpool

Mr. L. Booth, of Northumberland Avenue, Blackpool, wrote to the West Lancashire *Evening Gazette* about his strange experience. His letter was published on August 8 and reads as follows: "I have been reading your paper of August 1 and note with interest the article about lights in the sky. I have also seen some similar things, only on a different date. On July 25 as I was returning to Anchorsholme from work at about 12.50 a.m. I happened to look up at the sky when all of a sudden I observed a formation of seven objects passing over me and out to sea. They were very low and gave the appearance of being round in shape and, although there was no sound from them, they were emitting a pale orange light, and they were visible for only about ten seconds and moving very fast."

Activity over Gloucester

The *Gloucester Citizen* on August 21 returned to the subject of UFOs after a report had appeared in its August 17 issue: "More strange objects in the Gloucester sky! This time they were seen by Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Riley, who are staying at 35 Teddington Gardens, Gloucester. Mr. Riley told *The Citizen* today: 'My wife Doreen and I were walking towards our parked van in Brunswick Road after a visit to the cinema last night when, to

my amazement I saw a cluster of lights in the sky speeding silently from east to west.' He said that he saw about eight or ten lights. Then suddenly they changed direction and headed southwards. 'As they did so they fanned out into an oval shape, apart from three at the rear end which lagged, or dropped down slightly. When the change of course was completed, however, they closed up with the remainder to complete the oval, which glided off towards Bristol and disappeared from our view,' he commented.

"Mr. Riley said he thought they were at a height of about 2,000 feet, and on this assumption the span of the oval would be several hundred feet. 'Neither my wife nor I believe in flying saucers,' he went on, 'but the object or objects we saw would appear to defy explanation.'"

Chelmsford UFO

Mr. Ronald Caswell sends the following report: "My brother, Mr. Denis Caswell, 10 Taunton Road, Springfield Green, Chelmsford, wrote a letter to me a few minutes after sighting an object at around 9 p.m. on July 29, 1963. Happening to glance through the large living-room window, he caught sight of a glowing object in the sky some distance off. It was orange in colour, shaped like a short stick and at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the ground. He had a clear view along a short road, across some playing-fields to some low buildings in the distance. Just above this horizon, where the sun had gone down, was a layer of dirty-blue grey, then a layer of a reddish hue, then the blue sky. The object was near the top of the reddish layer. What attracted my brother's attention was the stationary attitude of the object. For a period of about 30 seconds he watched it, then moved to make sure it was not a reflection. Then he watched for a further thirty seconds or so. *The window faces approximately due west.* Then he ran from the house, jumped a low fence and called his wife and the woman from next door. It was about a minute before they appeared. For about three or four minutes the three of them watched the object, commenting on the strangeness of it, then the left end of the object lifted to bring it to the horizontal, and the object shot off, apparently towards the right, the view then being blocked by some houses. My brother had the definite impression that it was a large object a long way off. During his military service he was in charge of a small meteorological unit of the Royal Artillery in Malaya, and has many times plotted weather balloons by theodolite."

Southampton mystery

Mr. Peter J. Kelly has drawn our attention to a letter which appeared in the *Southern Evening Echo* on September 6. The correspondent, whose name and address were supplied to the editor of the newspaper signs himself "Curious." The letter reads as follows: "Every night between 11 p.m. and midnight (B.S.T.) a bright light appears in the sky just over the roof tops practically due east. It has the appearance of a very bright star; it travels very, very slowly upward and towards the south, not rising vertically but upward at an angle which is always the same. Can you or any of your readers tell me the source of the light and what it is?"

Medway towns mystery

The *Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham News* on August 2 reported: "What was the object that hung for two hours in the sky over Gillingham on Wednesday night (July 31)?

"Eye-witnesses described the unidentified flying object as 'V-shaped—shining in the sunlight,' or 'Like a triangle with a red glow at the bottom.' Said a man who was walking down Franklin Road at about 8.30 p.m.: 'I saw this thing high in the sky, travelling north to south slowly, then it went straight up, like. It was in the shape of a "V" and shone in the sun.'

"Another man who saw the 'thing' was 24-year-old Mr. David Bird, of Gardiner Street, Gillingham. He claimed the object remained still for two hours very high up from around 7.30 p.m. 'I looked out of the window and saw some jetstreams and this thing in the sky. It was like a shining white light,' said Mr. Bird. With the aid of some opera glasses he could see a red glow on the bottom.

"'I have never seen anything like it,' he continued. 'All the neighbours were out looking at it. It went from a "V" to a circular shape while it hung in the air.'

"Mr. Bird's brother thought it resembled a triangle, however. Said Mr. Bird: 'I daresay there are other people on other planets looking at us, and those triangles in Dorset make you think.'

"Was the object a weather balloon which can reach tremendous heights and form unusual shapes? Mr. Bird discounted this on the grounds that this object remained stationary for such a long time.

"Viewing it through his 60-magnification telescope at Pump Lane, Rainham, was Mr. Cyril Shead, who described it as 'like an old-fashioned humbug.' He thought it might have been eight to ten thousand feet up, and seemed to be made of a shiny plastic, although with the eye it resembled a plane glinting in the sun.

"But the final word came from the Air Ministry. 'We are looking into it,' said a spokesman. 'It was seen by people over a wide area of the South-East.'

"It has been suggested it could have been one of the many varieties of meteorological balloons, or a radio-soude balloon. These are made of a plastic material and when inflated are like an inverted pear. At a certain altitude they burst and parachute down equipment used for examining the atmosphere."

Kent visitor

The lunch edition of the London *Evening Standard* on September 19 carried the following item in its Kent Newsletter section: "A mysterious nocturnal object with an orange-red glow has been sighted hovering over Kent coast towns and has led to a spate of flying saucer rumours. It was first seen at Margate by Mr. Taffy Rooke, a reliable witness. A few days later there was a sighting at Ramsgate. The latest is by a couple at Herne Bay. The R.A.F. at Manston has no idea what the object can be. Each time it appeared to hover a few hundred feet up before rapidly flying off to sea."

Cumberland "tumbler-shaped"

The *West Cumberland Times* in its issue of August 3 reported that a strange object was spotted by Mr. Harry Stalker, a Distington telephone engineer, who described it as "tumbler-shaped" and glowing brightly in the northern half of the sky.

A Silloth man who examined it through field glasses on the evening of July 27 said it was very high, appeared to be metallic and surrounded by a red ring. Mr. C. Hetherington, yet another witness, who lives at Station Road, Wigton, said it appeared to be winged with a "V" type centre which reflected the sun's rays. Mr. Leslie Rae, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, said: "It is obviously not a man-made satellite. It may be of considerable interest, and I would like to know if it was seen in other parts of the country."

(Credit to Mr. E. G. Boughton.)

Lancashire sky puzzle

From the *Lancashire Evening Post,* September 12: "Mr. T. W. Turner, of Liverpool Road, Hutton, describes an unusual sight in the sky when travelling from Broughton-in-Furness to Greenodd, on Sunday night in a letter to the *Post*: 'The sky to the west was filled with a peculiar yellow glow, not unlike that from sodium street lamps. I watched the spectacle for about 30 seconds during which its brilliance steadily increased to a maximum at which it remained for about five seconds, before fading as gradually as it increased. Mystified, I resumed my journey, but had no sooner got under way than the display was repeated.

" 'A curious feature was that the light was not reflected from the under-side of the cloud layer, as would have been the case had it come from a conflagration on the ground, but shone through and obviously came from above.'

"Mr. Taylor thinks that the spectacle was caused by a satellite's re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, but, he queries, would a satellite be visible for ten minutes? He saw the glow in the sky at about 9.45 p.m., fifteen minutes earlier than Mrs. Tindsley, and he thinks it possible that her sighting was only an approximation."

Somerset saucer

From the *Burnham - on - Sea Gazette and Highbridge Express.* August 1: "I wonder what H. G. Wells would have made of it? For like many other West Country people, Mrs. Alice Irene Chiswell, of Ivy Cottage, West Huntspill, saw the 'Mysterious Thing' in the sky shortly after midnight, on Tuesday. Mrs. Chiswell, who awoke her husband, saw The Thing as she was looking west from the bedroom window. She described it as 'A big glowy light. It was rather oval in shape, and glittering. A stream appeared to come down from it, and the colours were red and orange.

"It was quivering all the time, something like a jelly, and I watched it for about a quarter of an hour." At first, her husband, Mr. Harry Chiswell, thought that it was the moon, but she pointed out to him, 'The moon does not do the Twist'! Mrs. Chiswell said that The Thing appeared to be very slowly descending in a wavy motion. Then, it faded out."

Damned fact from Kent

The London *Evening Standard* on August 29 printed the following report without comment: "Police, farmers and council officials were mystified by a 'straw storm' which hit Dartford today. It fell for about an hour and, said one woman, 'the sky seemed full of it.'

"A police spokesman said: 'We are baffled. There was too much of it to be dropped from an airplane.' "

Walsall saucer

The following account appeared in the *Walsall Observer* on *August* 2: "A mysterious circular object projecting a beaming light, seen over Walsall on Thursday last (August 1), was reported to the police for investigation. The first reports were received at Bloxwich police station at 11.30 p.m. from Mr. E. E. Dunn, of 129 Stephenson Avenue, Bloxwich, and Mr. M. G. Cope, of 29 Priestly Road, Bloxwich. A policeman who saw them in Stephenson Square later, was told that while they had been talking they looked in the sky towards Willenhall, and saw a beaming red light flashing on and off. Mr. Dunn told the policeman that it had been about 6,000 ft. up in the sky, and had circled Beechdale Estate three times. The object changed from red to blue-white and remained this colour before reverting to a bright red.

"It remained stationary two or three times for periods of 20 to 30 seconds, before it vanished noiselessly from view behind Bloxwich fire station, travelling in the Walsall direction. Both men were convinced that the object was not an aircraft. At 11.40 p.m., another report was received at Walsall police station from Mr. R. Martin, of 38 Rowan

Road, whose wife had drawn his attention to an unidentified object in the sky, circling over the Bescot area. In both cases nothing was seen by police officers who had been sent to investigate. A police spokesman told the *Observer* that Walsall was on a main air traffic lane and the beaming light could have been shown by an aircraft."

Bilston boy sees saucer

On August 8, the *Wolverhampton Express and Star* told the following story of a Bilston boy's sighting: "A mysterious flying object which passed over Bilston late last night startled a 15-year-old boy . . . and his father dialled 999 to tell the police.

"The boy, Peter Jones, of 28 Hincks Street, a pupil at Bilston Grammar School, was in Parkfield Road, Ettingshall, at about 10.30 p.m. when he spotted The Thing. Three friends with him also saw it as well. The object, he says, was circular in shape, slightly smaller than the moon, and was travelling low in the sky from Wolverhampton towards Bilston. As it moved slowly along it changed colour from red to pink and then white. Now and then it erupted a bright trail similar to a rocket.

"Today Peter was fishing at Bridgnorth, but his father, Mr. Leslie Jones, told the *Express and Star*: 'At first I thought he was pulling my leg, or that perhaps he had seen the moon, balloons from a show or perhaps the lights of an aircraft. But he insisted that it couldn't have been any of these things. He wasn't satisfied until I had told the police and tried to find out if anyone else had seen it.'

"Bilston police say they have not received reports of any other sightings and the object remains unidentified."

Nottingham mystery

We are indebted to Mr. G. M. Denison for sending us the following account taken from the *Nottingham Evening Post* of July 31: "Four fishermen at Trent Bridge yesterday were startled to see a mystery object in the sky. The bright object appeared over the Suspension Bridge before dipping down out of sight. Mr. Edward O'Dowd (29) of Hartford Street, Nottingham, told the *Evening Post* that he was out fishing with his two younger brothers, Peter (22) and Barry (15), and they were preparing to pack up just before 2 a.m. when they saw the light in the sky. 'It came at a fast speed and seemed to disintegrate. About 15 minutes later we saw the same thing again. They were not very high. It was not a shooting star or a meteorite, I know what they look like—and neither was it a satellite,' said Mr. O'Dowd.

"He added that it appeared to be a little smaller than the full moon. With the three brothers was Mr. John Parker (26), of Atlas Street, Nottingham, who told them that he had seen a similar phenomenon once before.

Yesterday it was reported that a mysterious object, like an orange ball of fire, had been seen in the sky over Bristol twice during the previous night."

For an "explanation" of the UFO over Bristol see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September-October, 1963, issue.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh revisited

The *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* on August 6 reported: "Another unidentified flying object has been sighted in Edinburgh. At 4 a.m. today 16-year-old Robert Brown, of 14 Loganlea Terrace, a vanboy with Smith's Bakeries at Hawkhill, saw an aircraft 'shaped like a spinning top with a flat bottom' hovering over the city.

"'I heard a "wheeing" noise and it was in my vision for two or three minutes. It was twice the size of an aeroplane, but was travelling very slowly,' said Robert.

"He added: 'It was silver and shiny and flying quite low. It took off, climbing in the direction of Arthur's Seat.'"

Town councillor sees saucer

The *Daily Mail* (Scottish edition) on August 1 carried the following news item: "A 64-year-old town councillor claims he saw a flying saucer over Lanarkshire on the day six people saw a strange object flying above Edinburgh. About the same time a number of mysterious spider-shaped craters was discovered in various parts of the country. He is Councillor John Gallagher, of Calder Avenue, Coatbridge, and was on duty at Whifflet North Junction signal-box last Thursday (July 25).

"He said last night: 'A plane heading towards Renfrew attracted my attention. Just as it was disappearing the flying saucer came into view. It hovered about 100 ft. above the centre of the town, then moved round to the north side, over the parish church.' But when Mr. Gallagher, a father of eight, looked away for a few seconds to attend to a passing train, the object vanished.

"He said: 'It must have had tremendous speed to disappear so quickly. I told only my family about it at first because I was afraid I'd be ridiculed. I never believed in such things before, but now I'm thoroughly convinced flying saucers exist.'

"Mr. Gallagher's description of the object tallied with that given by Edinburgh observers. He also logged its appearance — it came over Coatbridge at 9.45 a.m. and had disappeared at 9.56."

(Credit to Mr. William Robertson.)

WALES:

Bank manager's sighting

The revival of interest in flying saucers has caused the newspapers to devote considerable

space to the subject. The following account is taken from the *South Wales Evening Post* published in Swansea on August 23: "Still wondering whether he could believe his eyes, Swansea bank manager, Mr. W. D. Evans, told me today of the mysterious object he saw in the sky off Langland soon after midnight. 'As large as a double-decker bus, shaped like a jellyfish, and emitting a red-orange pulsating glow, it travelled silently from east to west on a steady course between 40 m.p.h. and 60 m.p.h. at between 2,000 and 3,000 feet,' he said. And, smilingly, he added: 'I had not been drinking. It was a fantastic experience. Looking back on it now, I find it very hard to believe it happened. It was extraordinarily eerie.'

"So convinced was Mr. Evans, an ex-R.A.F. operations control officer that what he had witnessed for a full minute-and-a-half was unearthly, that he rang Swansea police and gave them a full description. He called out near neighbour in Beaufort Close, Langland, Mr. Desmond King, a production manager, who saw the object for about 15 seconds before it disappeared low down in the direction of Mumbles lighthouse.

"Mr. Evans' wife also saw the object, and the police had reports from two taxi drivers who had seen things in the sky. One of them thought it was a flare which had come down at Southend. Police searched the beach at Southend but found nothing.

"R.A.F. air traffic control at Uxbridge were informed but they had had no report of a distress flare.

"Said Mr. Evans: 'My wife and I were returning home after taking an accident case to hospital. Looking up, towards Langland Bay Golf Club, I saw this thing which I first thought was a very large flare. But it passed directly overhead, completely soundless and on a definite track, unaffected by the wind. There was a tremendous glow from the thing. It was obviously going to a plan. It was either controlled from the ground or from inside. But who could live in such an inferno? The fact that it was so low and such a tremendous spectacle, cuts out any suggestion of a meteor.

"'It was the shape of a shuttlecock or jelly fish, and travelled low, steadily and majestically. It was something sufficiently unusual to be quite frightening. I have always been sceptical about flying saucers, but this is something clean outside normal human experience so far as I am concerned.'

"Mr. King confirmed that the object emitted an orange light, was moving in a straight line at a steady altitude, was silent and travelling from east to west.

"'I had not seen anything like it in my life. I was quite fascinated, but cannot think of any explanation. It was nothing like a meteorite, and I would not have thought it was a flare,' he said.

"Coastguards on look-out duty at Mumbles saw no object to seaward.

"'From reports we have had from the police, the object must have come from landward. In our view, it was a rocket or flare fired by some unauthorised person. There was no distress flare last night,' said a spokesman."

NEW ZEALAND

Cigar-shaped object over Taupo

The *Hawke's Bay Herald-Tribune* on June 19 carried the following report: "Two independent sightings of an unidentified flying object were made over the Central Plateau, Taupo, last week. In both cases the object was reported to be moving at an 'unbelievable speed' and was said to be cigar shape, leaving a vapour trail much like one left by a jet plane. One of the reports was made by a retired businessman and a frequent visitor to Taupo, Mr. J. H. Barnes, who said there was no doubt there was something in the sky and moving very fast.

"At the same time a Taupo-Nui-A-Tia College pupil said he saw a flying object travelling in the same direction and leaving behind a 'wriggly vapour trail.' A Civil Aviation Administration spokesman said there were no commercial planes or jets in the area at the time."

AUSTRALIA

Twice the moon's size

From the *Adelaide Advertiser,* May 27: "Mr. F. Pfeiffer, a farmer, of Macclesfield, reported last night having sighted a large bright object in the north-west sky about 6.50. He said the object was about twice the size of the moon.

"'It came towards me and then remained stationary for about a second and a half before moving off at terrific speed,' he said. In the circle of light were a number of bright lights. Mr. Pfeiffer said the object came from an area where he had previously noticed rocket sodium vapour trails.

"[No rockets were fired from Woomera yesterday.]"

U.S.A:

"Morning star" chases car

The *Dublin Evening Express* in its issue of August 6 carried the following account of a youth's extraordinary experience: "A teen-ager said a strange white light chased his car at speeds up to 120 miles an hour early yesterday morning. Ronnie Austin (18), of Wayne City, Illinois, told authorities the light followed him and Phyllis Bruce (18), 10 miles as they drove home from a drive-in theatre at Mount Vernon, Illinois.

"Austin claimed the light stalled the car's engine as it passed over and caused the radio 'to go crazy.' At one time it approached as close as 100 feet, he estimated. He said it made a humming sound and had a 'cooling effect' as it passed overhead. Austin bolted into the home of his father, Orville, and told him

to get a gun. Austin said the gun seemed to cause the light to draw nearer, so he closed the door, turned off all the lights in the house and telephoned the police.

"Wayne County Deputy Sheriff Harry Lee, one of the officers who answered the call, said he saw the light at a distance. He said it was 'three or four times bigger than a star and was moving, but not twinkling.'

"Kenneth Talbert, police radio operator at Fairfield, said the light had the shape of a cross. Wayne City Marshall, George Sexton said the light looked like the Morning Star to him.

"Mrs. Ebbie Austin, grandmother of the Austin youth, said the light had her dogs barking during the night.

"'It was ten times bigger than the moon and was much brighter than the Morning Star,' said Mrs. Dwight Withrow, a neighbour.

"Sexton said Austin became so excited when he viewed the retreating light with police outside his parents' home later that they had to carry him inside. A doctor was called to give him a sedative."

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Lenticular clouds

Sir,—From what Mr. Bowen says in his letter published in the last issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW he appears to think that I am a die-hard sceptic who would rather believe any explanation than admit the existence of UFOs.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

But I do believe in facts. Lenticular clouds are facts, Mr Bowen, not just "fancy words," and it is a fact that they resemble the object under discussion.

I suggest Mr. Bowen visits his local library and finds out just what lenticular clouds are, then he would know why I did not apply that explanation to all UFO sightings, and why there is no connection between them and cloud-cigars.—L. Moulster, 141 West Street, Dunstable, Beds.

A new approach?

Sir,—There is still an enormous amount of untapped information concerning flying saucers. Some of this information has been lying in journals and newspaper reports, and yet in spite of considerable research has yet not been thoroughly investigated.

In a recent survey of available material, I was struck by the following facts:

(a) The activities of the saucers resemble the antics of children or animals at play.

(b) Saucers are seen only in the atmosphere at low altitudes. Outside the atmosphere and at high altitudes the mother-ship or cigar makes itself apparent.

These two important facts can be verified at every sighting and deserve greater discussion.

Dealing first with (a), one must exclude the so-called "contact stories," as these can never be verified. Several questions must then be asked, "Why should the saucer people be of higher intelligence than ourselves? Why should they have a greater philosophy and necessarily believe in our God?"

It is common knowledge that a child can drive a car, and it may be quite likely that the occupants of the saucers may have a mentality which to us would appear strange and child-like. Their technology might be of an inferior grade in spite of their saucers which are motivated by a process as yet unknown to us but which might appear commonplace on other planets.

Uneducated natives in parts of the world may be very experienced in driving cars and tractors but yet to civilised races are backward. Might not the pilots of the saucers be of child-like mentality, the so-called "black-sheep" of the cosmos. All the evidence points to this, all sightings show a performance which to all intent and purpose is infantile. Perhaps this is the answer why no "true" contacts have been made, why no communication yet exists, why they scuttle away like frightened animals when approached.

They appear to have a simple way of heating large quantities of air rapidly to a high temperature, thereby causing ionisation, the air in the vicinity of the saucer becoming a "plasma." This is then electro-magnetically controlled for support, braking, and flight (resembling the "ion" rocket of today).

It is suggested that the investigation of saucer phenomena be radically changed. We are looking for an object which is as elusive as a frightened insect.—Dr. Bernard E. Finch, 851 Finchley Road, N.W.11.

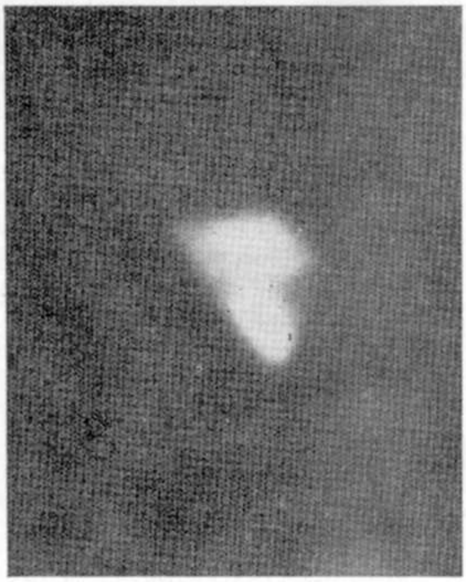
Faith and Science

Sir,—Whilst appreciating the differing standpoints of Faith and Science (Editorial, September-October issue), and the difficulties of a detached viewpoint, need the REVIEW speak so deprecatingly of cosmic philosophy? Wilbert B. Smith (p. 13) seems to show admirably the movement from one to the other. His approach was strictly scientific, and his findings led him first to accept the "validity of the alien science," and then the philosophy, which he describes as "self-consistent and magnificent." "When the material given to us through the many channels is all assembled and analysed, it adds up to a complete and elegant philosophy which makes our efforts sound like the beating of jungle drums." Please, let us have dissention with Mensel and Moore by all means, but tolerance between Faith and Science.—David W. Hicks, 3 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

(Mr. Hicks's point is taken. Wilbert B. Smith indeed supported cosmic philosophy but did not in the article referred to tell us what it is. We are hoping to be able to print the facts at which he hinted. Can Mr. Hicks help us in our search?—Editor.)

Triangular object

Sir,—I am enclosing a transparency taken on Ferrania reversal film using a 400-mm. lens in a single lens reflex camera. The unidentified object seen over the south-east of England on the evening of Wednesday, July 31, 1963, was filmed by me at 7.45 p.m., 15 minutes after my first sighting of it. The colour film picked out only the highlights owing to the sun being low in the sky. I also observed the object through binoculars fitted with neutral filters which cut out all glare and I have made a sketch of the object as I saw it. The object was triangular with the centre cut away, forming twin booms with a flare at its widest part like a heat haze. The object



Mr. Spier's photograph.

was directly overhead when photographed and remained in the same position for about five hours, shining after dark until obscured by cloud. It did not appear to be transparent at any time.—R. Spier, 71 Chestnut Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent.

The Charlton crater

Sir,—I expect you've had many reports on the Charlton marks, but perhaps this will interest you from the dowsing angle and also because my father and myself were at Charlton yesterday when the "meteorite" was produced, and we were able to discuss the matter with Patrick Moore and Mr. Blanchard afterwards.

We first visited the hole on July 19—here is my description at the time with comments.

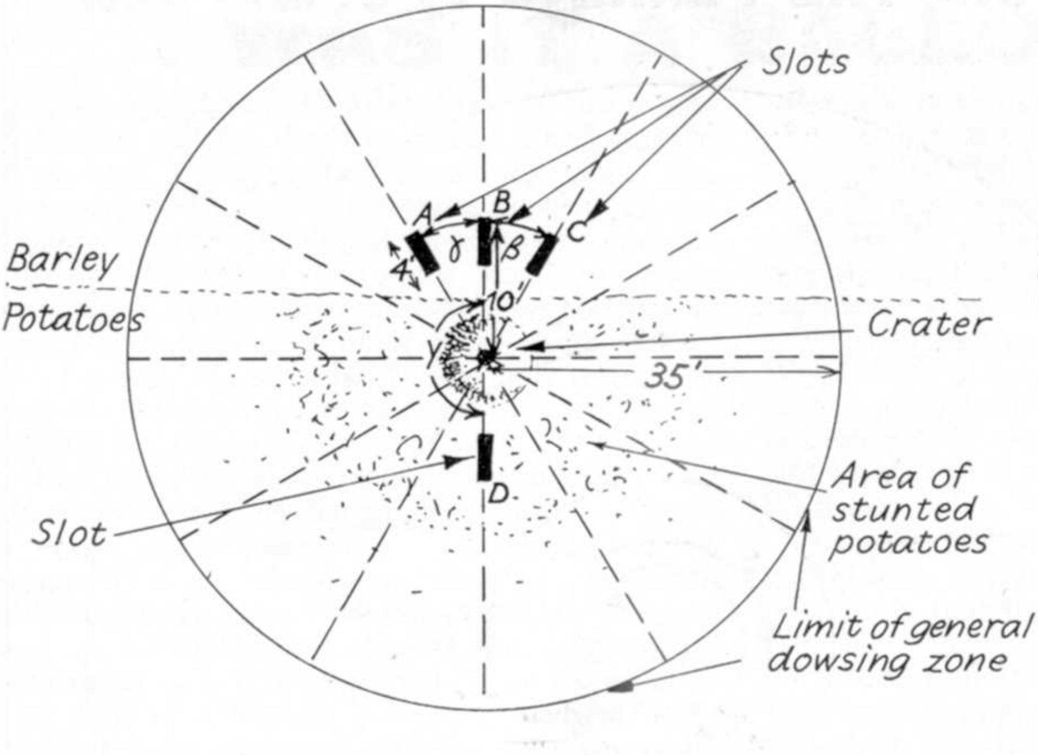
Description: According to newspaper reports (these were later confirmed by Mr. Blanchard) there was a central crater 5 ft. diameter and 1 ft. deep. At the centre was a hole 2 ft. deep and 5 in. diameter filled with loose earth. When we arrived, a square section of earth at side 5 ft. and depth 3 ft. had been dug up by the Bomb Disposal Squad. Presumably this section was centred on the original hole. The most interesting feature were four almost radial slot marks as indicated. These were about 4 ft. long and started 6 ft. from the centre. The two angles between these three slots in the barley field were about 30° and the marking in the potato field was in line with the centre of the three. The slots consisted of depressions in the earth 1 ft. wide and 1 in. deep and within them all traces of vegetation had disappeared, including weeds and roots.

Dowsing reactions: A circular dowsing zone of radius 35 ft. extended from the centre of the pit. I got more intense reactions along the four radii coincident with the slots and also along the eight other 30° radii. We visited Charlton again on July 21 and found the same dowsing reactions.

On July 25 Dr. Read, of the B.B.C., phoned up to say that Patrick Moore (whom I had written to about the hole) was at Charlton, and asked us to come along and discuss it with him. When we arrived, a piece of ironstone (apparently responsible for the readings on the Bomb Disposal Squad's instruments) had been found, and Patrick Moore gave his official view that it could be a meteorite.

The dowsing pattern remained, however, after the removal of the ironstone.

Later on we discussed the hole with Patrick Moore and Mr. Blanchard. Mr. Blanchard said (1) The marks were found in the first week of July *before* the explosions reported by local people. (2) The cow with dried-up udders, etc., was in a field far away from the crater and had nothing to do with it. (3) The two other marks reported by "Dr." Randall were just hares' forms. Patrick Moore said that (1) The dowsing zone could be explained by the meteorite breaking up on impact into fine dust which could scatter over a large area. (2) A meteorite could have produced the crater and then volatilised. (3) He was baffled by the radial markings, but explo-



Drawing based on Mr. Williamson's sketch.

sions could do " queer things."

From all this it seems to me that while a hypothetical meteorite could conceivably explain the crater and the central hole, the only explanations of the radial markings are (1) a hoax, (2) they were produced in some way by a UFO. Perhaps they could have been produced by parallel beams of intense radiation emitted from vents round the disc of the craft, which would then have an approximate diameter of 12 in. How such rays could remove all trace of vegetation from the slots remains baffling.

Apparently " Dr." Randall said that similar markings had been found in Australia and France. I would be most grateful if you could write and tell me if this is so, and give me the titles of books, etc., in which descriptions of these marks occur.

Hoping the above will be of some interest to you. — T. A. Williamson, 27 Bowhayes, Crock Lane, Bridport, Dorset.

P.S.—On reading through I find I have omitted (1) that the potatoes were stunted — really stunted—not just trampled on—for an area about 40 in. in diameter round the hole. The barley, on the other hand, appeared unharmed. Perhaps this could be explained by the radiations from the UFO having a selective inhibiting effect on the growth of potatoes.

(We are grateful for Mr. Williamson's observations. Readers are referred to our September-October issue for a detailed account of the Charlton mystery crater and others observed in various parts of England and Scotland. Mr. Patrick Moore's observations may safely be disregarded.—Editor.)

Life on Mars

Sir,—In his article on Phobos and Deimos in your May-June issue, Wade Wellman does not mention the most interesting points of all, namely the work of Struve, Sharples and Shklovskiy. The last named has just published, in Moscow, a book with the title *Reason in the Universe*, in which he recapitulates all his evidence in favour of the artificial character of the two moonlets. Wellman also seems to be unaware of the work of Sinton and Dollfuss, who *prove* the existence of life on Mars.

Among the arguments in favour of the artificial character of Phobos, there is the slowing down in its orbital motion, as seems to result if one compares the measurements made by the Russian Struve at the beginning of this century and by the Englishman Sharples a few years ago. Comparing these measurements, the Russian astrophysicist Shklovskiy reached the conclusion that the density of Phobos is less than the density of the lightest solid bodies known, and even less than that of the Earth's atmosphere. Shklovskiy deduced from this that Phobos is a *hollow* heavenly body. And since there are no hollow bodies in classical astro-physics, it follows, so he says, that Phobos must be artificial. But, in the opinion of Danjon, Director of the Paris Observatory, the measurements of the slowing down are not absolutely certain. Whatever the facts of the case may be, Shklovskiy has recapitulated all his arguments in *Reason in the Universe*. It is to be noted that Shklovskiy is one of the three or four most important Russian astronomers at the present time. —Aimé Michel, St. Vincent les Forts, Basses Alpes, France.

THE MOON AND THE PLANETS *by C. M. Pither*

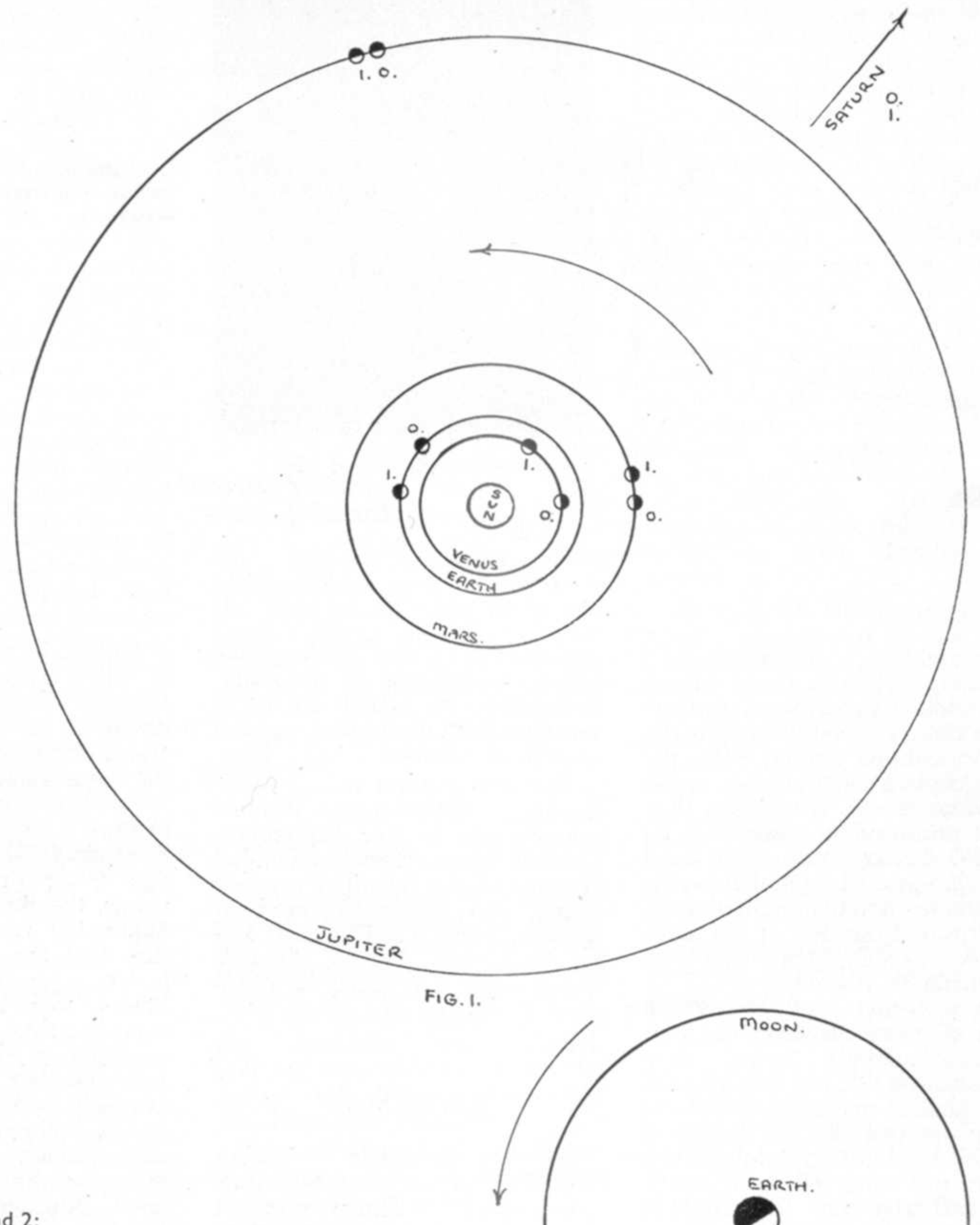


FIG. I.

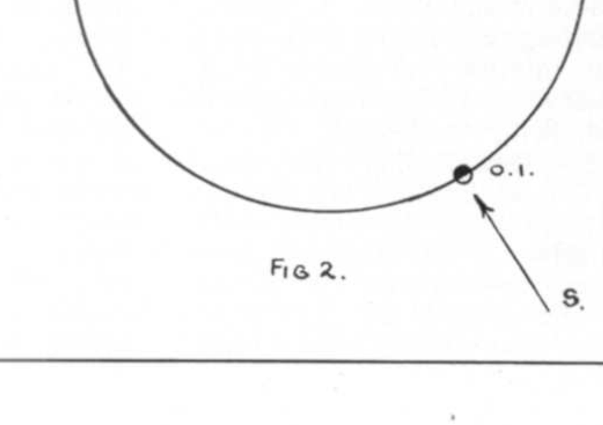


FIG 2.

Figs. I and 2:

0. The Moon and Planets during November.
I. The Moon and Planets during December.

N.B.: It will be seen from Fig. I that of the four bright planets represented, only Jupiter and Saturn can be observed at the present time; Mars and Venus lying too close to the Sun. Saturn lies due South at approx. 5.40 G.M.T. during mid-November and is fairly bright; whilst Jupiter lies due South at 8.50 p.m. G.M.T. for the same month, and is very bright.

WAS IT A BALLOON?

IN the September-October issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there appeared a full account of how the Charlton crater deception had been exposed and the meteorite that never was expunged from the official records. The debunking of officialdom continues and the *Daily Express* of August 15 reported the experience of Mr. David Ogilvy, a chief flying instructor of the London Flying School, who had refused to buy the official verdict that was put forward to explain his sighting.

The *Daily Express* quotes a letter written by Mr. Ogilvy and printed in *Flight International*:

" The object (seen over Elstree airfield on August 1) was obviously very large at a considerable height. It could have been at 80,000 feet and had a span of 400 feet or so. I had no means of measuring size, but from experience would compare that of a Vulcan V-bomber at 20,000 feet which I have observed with the naked eye and through binoculars on a few occasions.

" For the benefit of any person who may be wary of this report, I may add that I was a 'Disbeliever' and now have an open mind on the subject of unidentified flying objects."

The *Daily Express* explained that Mr. Ogilvy has logged more than 1,000 hours in high-flying Mosquitoes. When he talked to the Air Ministry, a " very disinterested official " said it was a baloon—probably (a favourite word with Authority) for weather observation from France.

Later Mr. Ogilvy rang Elstree airfield and spoke to the duty air traffic controller. He, too, had seen the object and he reported that the American Air Force had sent up a Super Sabre from Bentwaters to seek out the object, but the plane could not climb high enough. Mr. Ogilvy commented that he does not suffer from an excessively imaginative mind and that he has some idea of what to expect and see in the sky. " I certainly know a ' met.' baloon when I see one," he confidently asserted.

An object similar to that observed by Mr. Ogilvy was seen by numerous witnesses over the London and home counties area (see World Round-up feature in the September-October issue and the Mail Bag section in this issue). The Air Ministry's first explanation was that the sightings had been caused by a " weather balloon from the continent." Later a more definite origin was suggested and it was declared that the balloon had come from France. Presumably because the wind was in the wrong direction at the relevant times it was decided to change the balloon's nationality and the public was finally told that it was German. It is doubtful, however, whether the Air Ministry is believed any more in view of its manifestly absurd pronouncements.

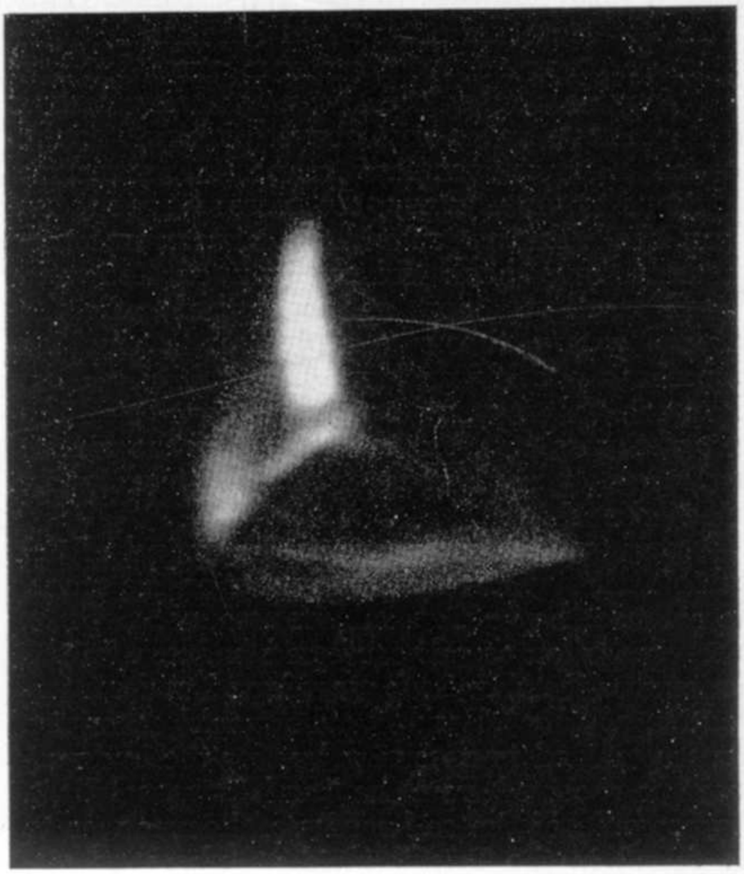
Below we publish a photograph and description of what may well have been the same object reported by Mr. Ogilvy.

This photograph was taken by Mr. Jan Willemstyn, a former K.L.M. pilot. He is now a British subject and is a keen amateur astronomer. He lives at 5, Melbourne Road, Bushey, Herts, and teaches at the College of Further Education, Watford.

He estimates the height of the UFO at over 90,000 feet. It was observed from his home and he reports that ten of his neighbours confirmed the object through his telescope before he took the photograph. One of his neighbours drew Mr. Willemstyn's attention to the object at 8.30 p.m., though it had been observed for an hour previously. At 9.40 p.m. when the light faded the object gradually disappeared from view.

Mr. Willemstyn's description of the object: " It had a triangular appearance in three-dimensional aspect, that is to say the bottom of it appeared to consist of three triangles with a common apex,

(*Continued on page iii of cover*)



Mr. Willemstyn's photograph.

A HOAXER CONFESSES

How the Press Behaves

THE Wiltshire crater mystery not only served to bring the flying saucers to the attention of a wide public all over the world, but it also illumined the attitude of several newspapers. Not all are now hostile to the concept, and those that were burnt their fingers badly by accepting uncritically the various " explanations " that were trotted out.

The *Daily Telegraph* was, perhaps, the most badly burnt. After having printed "Dr." Randall's Uranus theory, it then accepted the meteorite explanation without hesitation. Next day, as readers of the September-October issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will recall, it had to recant on July 27. Unfortunately, Anthony Smith had written an article more or less dismissing the saucers, and this was printed in full on July 29. In this article in the *Daily Telegraph,* Anthony Smith invoked the principle of Occam's razor which, in the context, would mean that if one is confronted with a mystery one should always prefer the more mundane of alternative explanations. The Charlton meteorite was thus endorsed after it had proved to be non-existent. This article was written not only in ignorance of the latest development in the crater mystery, but also in ignorance of the fact that most flying saucer students have in the past obeyed Occam's sound advice and have considered all possible mundane solutions to the mystery; the secret weapon, the hoax, the hallucination and the misinterpretation theories have been exhaustively studied and found wanting. Then, and only then, was the inter-planetary theory accepted as a working hypothesis and it was found that it fitted all the facts and that it was the only one that stood the test of time. Orthoteny then clinched the matter and offers a proof that any open-minded scientist must accept.

A new and recent feature is the arrival of the exhibitionists who suddenly appear on the scene. Sometimes they arrive as flying saucer experts, but more often as self-confessed hoaxers. In the September-October issue we referred to the intervention of " Dr." Randall, who would otherwise have remained in obscurity but for the endorsement he received from the Bomb Disposal Unit. An example of the self-confessed hoaxer was to be found in the Bristol incident where an aircraft worker stated that he had let up a balloon with a piece of burning carpet attached. More recently, a Mr. John Southern has come forward to say that he and two unnamed collaborators dug the craters in various parts of Britain which caused the sensational reports of flying saucer landings. The " confession " was printed in the *News of the World* on August 25 and in the *Daily Mail* on August 26. Mr. Southern claims that he was responsible for the crater near Haddington in Scotland and the Wiltshire crater. " We had planned a third crater up near Cambridge. We even went up to do it but the weather was so bad we packed it in."

The confession need not be taken seriously for a number of reasons, but the point to be noted is that two widely-circulating newspapers saw fit to publish the story without any attempt, it would appear, to investigate it. The principle seems to be that any story that will discredit the saucers can safely be accepted and if one " explanation " has been exploded any other will do.

The questions that should have been asked can now be put. Is Mr. Southern aware that there were more than three craters found in Britain at that time? Indeed, there were more than one in Scotland alone. Did he know of the Flamborough Head crater or the one in Southampton? Were he and his friends responsible for the giant crater in Westmorland? And did they get over to Holland on July 27 and dig the square hole about 12 feet deep and more than six feet across in a meadow on the Dutch North Sea island of Sviermonnikoog, one of the Friesian Islands, north of the German port of Emden? (See the London *Evening News,* July 25.)

Mr. Southern, who, according to the *Mail,* laughs at stories of little green men, might also have been asked how the weather managed to be so bad that " we packed it in." The craters, in Southern England at least, were discovered in the middle of one of the best spells of weather the country has enjoyed this year. A further question that might now be put is whether the police have shown any interest in Mr. Southern's alleged activities. He has committed a form of public nuisance and has caused the Bomb Disposal Unit more than a week's work and the taxpayer a not inconsiderable expense. It is curious that these flying saucer hoaxers never seem to get into any trouble, but people giving false fire alarms are

prosecuted whenever they are caught. Finally, could Mr. Southern explain how he managed to produce the strong magnetic effect at the crater? But for this, the Bomb Disposal Unit might have finished their work much earlier. Certainly, one of the most baffling elements in the mystery would have been absent. It is an element which persists and has so far been unexplained. Mr. Roy Blanchard, of the Manor Farm, has had the last and most sensible comment: "I don't believe this story that the whole thing was a hoax. I think anyone who believes it was a hoax is being hoaxed." The victims of the hoax happen to be the *News of the World* and the *Daily Mail.*

The hoax explanation is reminiscent of the year 1954 in France. A series of almost incredible events had been reported all over that country. (It was the basis of these sightings that Michel was able to discover orthoteny.) The public was alarmed and called for some official explanation. At last it was forthcoming: A retired miner had built for a joke hundreds of "flying saucers" made out of strong grey paper on the fire balloon principle. After paraffin rags had been lit, the warm air lifted the "saucers" which were up to three metres in diameter, and the wind did the rest. (See the *Daily Mail,* October 6, 1954.) What nobody knew at the time was that the "balloons" drew straight-line patterns all over France, including the BAVIC line and many others. The French miner was never named, but it was alleged he lived at Beuvry-les-Bethune.

A pattern seems to be emerging from these hoax stories. When all official explanations have failed, certain newspapers which, for some reason or other, do not believe in flying saucers will rush to print anything which will either debunk the saucers or save the newspaper's face. Whether these hoaxers, who seem to be immune from prosecution, are merely publicity seekers or serve some deeper purpose is immaterial, but all UFOlogists are warned about this latest development. Newspapers should have pointed out to them immediately any such absurdities as those quoted above. The *Daily Mail* admitted to a FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reader that the paper had been flooded with letters on the subject. The story was then dropped, and it is significant that none of the points made by the correspondents appeared in print.

Subsequently, the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW received from Mr. John Southern a frank admission of his attempted deception. He writes as follows:

"I believe there could be flying saucers. I also believe that space-minded writers on this subject are not fools, though the lesser-minded people may snigger at their beliefs and their efforts to discover the truth and try to establish the facts.

"I became interested in this story of two craters appearing in different parts of the country. I followed the story with great interest and then suddenly, as often occurs, it was all left in mid-air and dismissed with a big laugh.

"I had ideas of writing an article on this subject myself, including these two craters. I enquired if perhaps there were other craters that were found and not published, but no one could tell me anything. Anyone I spoke to on the subject just laughed and said 'someone has pobably dug them for a hoax'. This bothered me, and I could never begin to write an article having the thought at the back of my mind that someone somewhere with a big shovel was sitting back laughing at me, so I decided to do something about it. I got the idea if I claimed that I dug the craters that the real culprits would certainly not let me take the credit for their efforts and would show themselves. Having the advantage of previously writing a play, with a similar plot, I took the chance and went through with it. I knew all too well I would have the Army Bomb Disposal officials to contend with, also the farmer, Mr. Blanchard, not to mention the disappointment and embarrassment of the people I was trying to champion, but knowing, of course, as it was only temporary I hoped they would see my point.

"What have I found out? I have established to my own satisfaction that these craters were not created by earthly creatures; I also have learned through letters and telephone conversations quite a lot on this subject, from people who would probably not even talk to me before, so I can continue my writing with the knowledge that there is certainly more evidence for flying saucers than there is against them. Two young men from Luton, Geoffrey Thompson and Peter Davis, produced a well-written article on this subject for the *Beds & Herts Pictorial* on December 11, 1962; it ended with: 'People should help to solve this mystery instead of pretending it doesn't exist', which is exactly how I feel.

(Signed) John Southern."

Mr. Southern adds that he has himself tried to get the *News of the World* and the *Daily Sketch* to publish his retraction but without success.

When this retraction was pointed out to the *News of the World* and the *Daily Mail* both editors were quite content to let the matter rest and to leave their readers in ignorance of the truth. In a letter to the REVIEW, the Letters Editor of the *Mail* said that to publish the retraction

(*Continued on page iii of cover*)

BOOK REVIEW

THE SHADOW OF THE UNKNOWN. This excellent roneoed publication of nearly 100 pages is produced by the New Jersey Association on Aerial Phenomena and can be obtained from Dave Halperin at 186, Lakeside Drive, Levittown, Penn., U.S.A. (In the U.S.A. $1.50, elsewhere $2.00.)

The whole field of the UFO mystery is very competently surveyed by a number of contributors, and it is interesting to note that Orthoteny is given a thorough investigation. In this chapter it is remarked that orthodox scientists, with one exception, have always avoided the subject. The exception was the noted biologist, Dr. Isaac Asimov, who in 1962 attempted to refute Michel by pointing out that a number of cities in the U.S.A. are situated on straight lines. *The Shadow of the Unknown* exposes the fallacy behind this argument. There are a large number of cities and towns in the U.S.A. and no doubt all sorts of alignments can be traced by those who want to. *Michel's straight lines revealed themselves when sighting reports on one day were collated.* There is no parallel between the two cases. Furthermore, Michel's choice was restricted to all of a few incidents and not to many hundreds. Incidentally, in a comparatively young country like America towns and cities are very likely to spring up along main roads and railway tracks which are more often than not constructed along straight lines. These straight lines, in fact, demonstrate plan and purpose—and so do Michel's.

Readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will be interested to know that Dr. Menzel has recently agreed to tackle Orthoteny in a special article. All we know at the moment is that one of his points concerns the absurdities of the incidents reported all over France in 1954. The REVIEW has tried to warn him that he is begging the whole question, for he will merely be left with an even greater mystery than the one he seeks to demolish. Why are these absurdities, as he calls them, strung out on a straight line? To back up the visual reports a number of incidents were supported by physical evidence as well, but Michel's case does not rest on the authenticity of the sightings: the points along the straight lines were discovered from *newspaper reports*. As Michel has remarked, the sceptic must either deny that the newspapers did not print the reports on the days mentioned or that the towns and villages referred to do not lie along a straight line. If the sceptic cannot demolish these facts, then he must face the possibility that something very strange happened in 1954 in the skies above France and occasionally on her very soil.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Editor and Publishers of the *Flying Saucer Review* wish their readers a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year. They would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the readers for their continued support.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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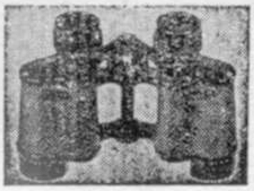

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(Continued from page 29)
the bases of the triangles forming a triangular periphery roughly equilateral. At the top apex there appeared to be a rod-like extension bearing several transverse members, rather like a multiple Cross de Lorraine. The general shape could be compared with the sort of milk carton one obtains from a slot machine, only somewhat shallower. The object, as the time indicates, was seen in late sunlight, so that, seen slightly East of North from our garden at Bushey, the left half was reflecting the sunlight in brilliant silver, while the right-hand side was a darker silver shade."

Another who observed the object on the same day was John Castelete, aged 14, of Oakdale Road, South Oxhey. The object was under observation from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the same day, August 1. When interviewed by the *Watford Observer* (see issue of August 9) he pointed out that for it to have remained overhead so long, the object must have been making adjustment and moving with the rotation of the earth. The Castelete family said that seen through the telescope the UFO was revolving, and added: "It was solid in the middle and diamond-shaped."

(Continued from page 31)
would be to open the matter for endless discussion. It was pointed out in a reply that the public looks to papers like the *Mail* for the truth and that argument can be left to those better able to sustain it. However, in another letter to one of the readers of the REVIEW, the *Daily Mail* replied that even the retraction did not prove that the Charlton crater had been caused by a flying saucer. This is particularly revealing because nobody had said that it did. What is betrayed is a fear that the cause of flying saucers might be advanced (as indeed it has been) by a public admission that the crater mystery cannot be solved by any rationalisation. When the meteorite hoax had been exposed, the *Daily Mail* (which earlier this year had expressed its disbelief in saucers in a leading article) was left without its main argument that most sightings could be explained in mundane terms. It therefore rushed to print Mr. Southern's original statement despite the fact that it was obviously false on a number of counts.

If the *Daily Mail* is anti-saucer because it fears ridicule, perhaps it will now realise that the tide has turned. The public is beginning to laugh at those who distort the truth, not at those who are attempting to proclaim it.

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